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THE TIMES

Power men threaten even more cuts if today's talks fail

As increasingly severe power cuts disrupted industry and commerce yesterday, management and official union representatives in the power industry were reported to be near agreement on claims for improved fringe benefits. Hopes rested on

today's meeting of the industry's national joint consultative committee, but one of the leaders of the unofficial work-to-rule and overtime ban said the power workers' action could be intensified if a settlement was not acceptable.

Surgeon operates by torchlight

By Craig Seton

Hopes for an early end to the increasingly severe power cuts affecting all parts of Britain today, a meeting of the electricity industry's national joint consultative committee. But, while management and unions were reported to be close to agreement, a leader of the workers who have taken unofficial action said it might increase if the settlement was not acceptable.

The cuts have affected offices, industry, domestic consumers and hospitals. In Northampton, a surgeon, Mr Maurice McLain, has had to switch on a patient by torchlight when both the power and an emergency generator failed. The patient, a woman undergoing a serious spinal operation, was not operated on and will now have to wait two more months.

Mr McLain yesterday appealed to the power workers to think over the dangers of their present industrial action, warning them that it might lead to the death of a patient in the operating theatre. In his own operation he had seen only two minutes from "a very dangerous position" that might have killed the patient.

In Surbiton, Surrey, another surgeon, Mr Peter Cloves, successfully completed a delicate eye operation by the light of battery lamps.

In London, the police manned main road junctions when traffic lights failed, but queues grew longer as the rush-hour blackout continued.

The London Fire Brigade said it had been inundated with calls to rescue people trapped in tower-block lifts.

The blackouts are the result of an eight-day dispute over shift pay and travel allowances which has reduced output from main power stations. Cuts of up to 15 per cent were reported last night, until the Electricity Council, which has said the cuts were "in order to prevent a settlement", added that there was little to be done to cushion important users from its effects.

The council's industrial relations staff remain cautiously optimistic about today's meeting. Both sides acknowledge that

improved shift allowances would be outside the Government's 12-month rule and that the workers would have to wait until March.

There is uncertainty whether an offer on travel allowances would break the rule, and they expect government guidance once any agreement is put forward for ratification.

Mr Francis Tombs, chairman of the council, said an additional claim by the workers taking unofficial action for concessionary electricity was unacceptable, but that was not thought to be a crucial issue.

Most of the men operating the overtime ban and work-to-rule are members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, but some belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Their executives do not support the action, and Mr Thomas Crispin, national secretary of the TGWU, said he hoped that today's meeting would result in an early return to normal working.

But Mr Clarence Hancox, for the unofficial shop stewards' committee leading the dispute, said: "Unless there is a firm offer acceptable to the committee and the men from the meeting I cannot see a change as it stands, and it might even worsen."

"However you look at it, the fact is that any increase in wages unmatched by an increase in production will have to be met by increases in the prices of coal and electricity. And who pays the higher prices for those higher wages? Not the Government: the people. We always do."

Gas plant protest: Residents at Machen, Gwent, called for the closure of a chemical plant last night after the evacuation of homes on Tuesday when a vapour leak was released by an explosion. The company, Consett Brothers, said yesterday that the cause had been power cut of which it had no warning.

Councillor Reginald Davies said that if the company had no emergency power supply it should close the works until the powerworkers' dispute was settled.

Continued on page 19, col 2

for compromise. It seems however that the desired breakthrough, which in the past has opened up an inflationary pay claim for face workers is a negotiable target rather than a hard and fast demand.

Some areas for bargaining suggest themselves immediately. The miners still remember that the Heath government proposed payment for time spent at the pit preparing for work but at present unpaid, the notorious "walking and winding time". This, it is calculated, is worth between £14 and £20 a week paid at the rate of at least an extra hour a day.

The effect of Mr Scargill's remarks is to introduce into the instability of present discussion a familiar note of "special case" pleading that offers the Government and the TUC a way out of the wage dilemma. If the extra money over and above 10 per cent could be justified as unique to coalmining there would be fewer repercussions across the rest of industry.

That theory accords with the less triumphant NUM view that

Mr Scargill also had some soothing words about the

less triumphant NUM view that

there is a way of solving this without its being used by anybody else".

Whether it will cut much ice with the coal bosses remains to be seen. The NCB will reply to the union's claim for £135 a week, £14 a week elsewhere underground, and £92 on the surface in time for the miners' union executive meeting a week today. It is almost certain to be a curtailed written statement to the effect that the state industry is bound by government policy to offer no more than 10 per cent, and that not until the miners are due for another increase on March 1, 1978.

In the wake of the miners' vote against a productivity deal in the pits, NUM leaders appealed to colliers yesterday not to allow their rejection of local incentives to depress production further.

The union's three national officials joined in statement admitting that the men had not kept their side of the bargain with the Government and the coal board under the 1974 tripartite Plan for Coal, which stipulated that output should rise.

Dumper on coal? page 21

Mr Scargill's formula for peace in the mines

by Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' left-wing leader, largely credited with the poll of wage moderation in the pits, last night held out the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the National Union of Miners' wage demands.

In an interview he told me: "I think quite clearly that only a confrontation, a fight, can bring a strike. I am convinced that, provided we sit down with the coal board and negotiate, we can get a settlement on this claim that will be acceptable to all sides."

The Government may be slightly suspicious of his motives, because Mr Scargill said there could be no settlement if the Chancellor's wage rise of 10 per cent. "We are in the same ball game", he said.

But he did not take up a rigid bargaining posture, arguing "I quite sure that round the negotiating table all avenues can be explored and an amicable and satisfactory solution can be arrived at".

Mr Scargill was unwilling to elaborate publicly on the scope

of his new formula for peace in the mines

but he did say that the miners' wage demands were "not too far removed" from the £135-a-week claim for face workers.

He said: "It was a lovely flight; the Queen enjoyed the new experience of supersonic flying," he added. "She spent about 10 hours on the flight deck during the trip."

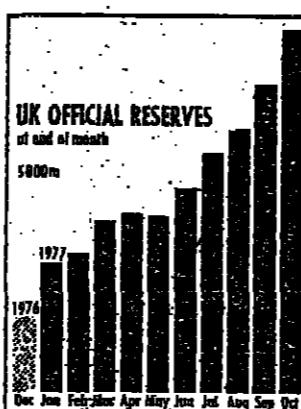
The Queen braved the rain and the crew, sheltering over Concorde's wings.

It was announced yesterday that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to West Germany next

probably from May 22

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UK reserves now third biggest in world

By Caroline Ardison

Brussels' official reserves soared to more than \$16,000m (about £1,640m) last month to top \$20,000m for the first time. They stood at \$14,25m at the end of last year.

Britain now has the third largest reserves in the world after West Germany and Saudi Arabia.

The inflow of foreign capital into London during October was the Bank of England struggled to hold down the value of the pound by buying dollars for the reserves—was the trigger for the decision to allow sterling to float freely this week.

Sterling has jumped by 5.6 cents on the foreign exchanges since the Bank of England stopped holding the rate down on Monday.

The size of the increase in reserves in October had been widely expected by the market and there was little reaction yesterday. Sterling actually closed 1 cent down on the day at \$1.8335 against the dollar, but this was more a reflection of a recovery in the dollar's fortunes than a weakening of demand for sterling.

Western diplomats said Mr Brezhnev's offer to negotiate a moratorium on nuclear weapons a

Brezhnev offer to suspend peaceful nuclear explosions programme removes obstacle to total test ban

Moscow, Nov 2.—The Soviet Union today offered to suspend its peaceful nuclear explosion programme to ease the conclusion of a total test ban treaty, and proposed a world-wide agreement simultaneously halting nuclear weapon production.

The suggestions came in the official text of a speech delivered in slightly abbreviated form by President Brezhnev to a Kremlin rally marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

The 90-minute address also included an extensive critique of the policies and tactics espoused by the "Eurocommunist" parties of the West.

During speeches by foreign guests later in the day, this theme emerged strongly with pro-Moscow communists like Dr Alvaro Cunhal of Portugal and Mr Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria—winning enthusiastic applause for ringing pledges of loyalty to the Soviet Union.

The non-conformist position was fervently defended by Signor Enrico Berlinguer of Italy, who declared that the Western parties' experience showed them democracy was "something of universal historical value", and in less detail by M. Paul Laurens of France.

Western diplomats said Mr Brezhnev's offer to negotiate a moratorium on nuclear weapons was vital for many of its basic development projects across the vast, unpopulated expanses of Russia and Siberia, and has sought their exclusion from any total nuclear ban.

Mr Brezhnev said the Soviet Union was ready to reach agreement on a moratorium on such explosive "along with a ban on all nuclear weapon tests for a determined period".

The western diplomats, who have considerable experience in disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union, said much would depend on the period of the moratorium Moscow might offer and whether it could be extended.

Most western countries feel that allowing continuation of any nuclear explosions would make possible violations of the treaty under negotiation.

Harvest upset

Contrary to Western calculations, the Soviet grain harvest will be only 194 million tonnes, Mr Brezhnev announced. This is 19 million tonnes less than planned. Report, page 8.

The Soviet leader said Russia wanted the present Geneva negotiations on a treaty—which would replace the 1963 accord barring everything but underground testing—brought to a successful conclusion.

This agreement would include all nuclear weapons—whether atomic, hydrogen or neutron bombs or missiles", he said, according to the official text.

Mr Brezhnev implicitly criticized the present Carter against critics on human rights.

"Not everyone in the United States likes our way of doing things, and we too could say a great deal about what is going on in the United States", he declared.

"But if differences are accentuated, if attempts are made to lecture each other, the result will only be a build-up of mistrust and hostility, useless to our two countries and dangerous to the world as a whole."

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as well as widening the possibilities for nuclear proliferation.

In the text of his speech released by Tass, which the news agency said later was the final official version, Mr Brezhnev was quoted as proposing what he described as "a radical step"—a coordinated half to nuclear weapons production by all states.

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The child victims of Japanese schooling

From Peter Hazellhurst
Tokyo, Nov 2

After scribbling a farewell note to her parents last month, Naomi Sakuma, a 10-year-old Japanese schoolgirl, jumped from the fourteenth floor of a Tokyo block of flats. She did not explain why she had taken her life but police found the answer in her bedroom: a pile of unfinished homework.

Naomi was a victim of the pressure of Japan's highly competitive and draconian educational system which is expected to push child and teenage suicides to a record level of about 800 this year, according to the projections of a report by the national police.

At the same time sociologists claim that many nine and ten year olds, who, in many cases, are forced to study 14 hours a day, are developing the symptoms of adult diseases, such as ulcers and hypertension.

The police report discloses that more than 400 children and teenagers committed suicide during the past seven months and that the rate of these deaths is increasing.

From the evidence, at least 120 of the suicides during the first half of the year can be traced back to the stress of preparing for entrance examinations.

In most cases, the average student is forced to attend special private cramming schools (known as *Jukus*) before and after normal school

Continued on page 8, col 6

Births to immigrants predominate in five London boroughs

By Sue Reid

More than half the children born in five London boroughs during 1976 had immigrant parentage, according to new statistics published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

The latest figures show that Brent, Haringey, Ealing, Westminster and Kensington each recorded a higher number of births to immigrant mothers than indigenous families during the year. In Greater London as a whole, the 83,233 children born had immigrant parentage, a marginal increase compared with 1975.

In Bradford, Leeds, Leicester and Manchester the births to immigrant mothers increased, but in Coventry and Birmingham the level remained at the same level as 1975. In Wolverhampton the number declined.

In 1976 there were only 584,000 live births in England and Wales, a fall of 19 per cent compared with four years earlier. During the same period births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom fell from 83,000 to 72,400, a fall of 13 per cent.

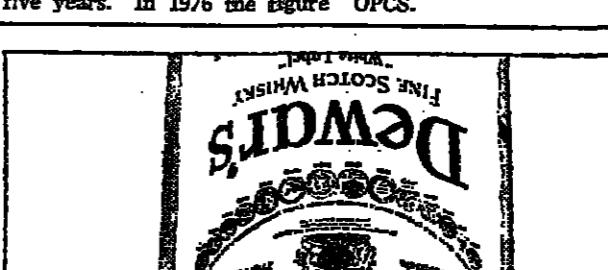
However, the percentage of births to mothers born outside the United Kingdom had been caused by the increasing number of New Commonwealth migrants to Britain of child-bearing age, often following heads of families who had arrived first to find work.

The inflow of East African Asians to Britain in recent years had also accounted for the rising birth rate among mothers born in Africa.

Overall, births to mothers from outside the United Kingdom amounted to a slowly increasing percentage of total live births in England and Wales between 1972 and 1976.

Children born to New Commonwealth and Pakistani mothers accounted for nearly 6 per cent of total births in 1972, but that figure had risen to 7 per cent in 1976.

However, the percentage of children with Republic of Ireland parentage declined from 2.6 per cent in 1972 to 1.9 per cent in 1976, a "significant fall", according to the OPCS.



A Louis XVI marquetry commode in the Wildenstein collection acquired by Mr Akram Ojeh.

Saudi pays £8.8m for Wildenstein collection

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The Wildenstein family collection of French furniture and works of art, considered by the art world more distinguished than that of Menmore, has been acquired by a Saudi Arabian businessman, Mr Akram Ojeh, for 75m francs (£8.8m). Last week it was announced that he had bought The Franks, the transatlantic liner, for 80m francs.

In his interview with *Art* yesterday, Mr

HOME NEWS

More cadets seen as way of raising strength of police

By George Clark

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, has decided to set up a working party of the Police Advisory Board to consider the system of employing police cadets to see how improvements can be made "to obtain sufficient recruits of the right quality to enable force strengths to reach authorized establishments".

That was stated yesterday in a White Paper containing the Government's replies to several criticisms made by the House of Commons Select Committee on Expenditure whose chairman is Mr James Boyden, Labour MP for Bishop Auckland.

Members of the committee had been critical in July of the way in which the Government was generously providing money for "job incentive schemes", yet restraining expenditure on the forces of law and order so that some police authorities were cutting down the intake of police cadets.

Mr Peter Hardy, Labour MP for Rother Valley, a member of the committee, said that in several police forces, and certainly in Merseyside, it had been decided not to appoint any new cadets.

Complaints were made to the committee by Mr Peter Matthews, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, that his organization had not been invited to give evidence to the committee. He called for some of the money being spent on job incentive schemes to be reallocated to police cadets.

In its reply, the Government says that economies in the police service were not designed to secure a reduction in total police expenditure, "but rather to help accommodate the higher cost of particular items such as police pensions, which mainly reflects an increase in the number of police who have retired; total expenditure on the police service was still planned to rise in real terms".

Work permits in New Zealand

Wellington, Nov 2.—Temporary visitors wanting to work in New Zealand will have to get work permits before arriving in the country under legislation introduced in Parliament today.

Ferry services still stopped

A strike by seamen on British Rail's Seafarers' ferry services to the Channel Islands ended yesterday but a dispute with the officers remained unsettled. Sealink said there would be no sailings until further notice.

Britain still in wilderness, Mrs Thatcher says

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

Britain was "no longer in the politics of the pendulum, but of the ratchet". Mrs Thatcher said in London yesterday.

On the eve of the state opening of Parliament she said that to believe that the Labour Government could be safely left to continue down the road of conservative measures towards prosperity was to forget its socialism and its reliance on left-wingers for its majority. And, Mrs Thatcher stated, in her opening remarks at a luncheon given by the Institute for Public Relations: "My job is to stop Britain from going red."

Her performance was also remarkable for what she did not say. She did not take up her colleagues' cry that Mr Healey, Chancellor of the exchequer, had started the rush

for a give-away election; she did not mention the possibility of confrontation, let alone a referendum, regarding the miners' pay negotiations, and touched on the matter only in passing.

Her main theme was to remind everyone of the "facts", demonstrating how deep-seated were Britain's economic problems. She asked: "Are we out of the wood yet?" and answered, indirectly, by comparing recent reactions to better news to the children of Israel after they had crossed the Red Sea. "They were so relieved, they had not been submerged that they forgot they had got to face 40 years in the wilderness."

Mrs Thatcher contended that it would need more than North Sea oil to overcome Britain's difficulties. "It will take an explosion of energy and will power by the British people as

for a give-away election; she did not mention the possibility of confrontation, let alone a referendum, regarding the miners' pay negotiations, and touched on the matter only in passing.

She was critical of over-concentration in economic discussions on monetary and technical matters, as if there was no combination that could possibly fit. It was clear that she was referring to the "fairy-tale" inflation of the last year? and, answered, indirectly, by comparing recent reactions to better news to the children of Israel after they had crossed the Red Sea. "They were so relieved, they had not been submerged that they forgot they had got to face 40 years in the wilderness."

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Man found guilty of girl bank clerk's murder

Michael John Hart, aged 38, was found guilty by a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of the murder of Angela Wooliscroft, aged 20, a bank clerk, at Hare, Richmond upon Thames, last November. The jury returned its verdict by a majority of 11 to one.

Mr Justice Melford Stevenson told him he would be sentenced today for the murder and other offences.

Mr Hart's plea of not guilty to murder but guilty of manslaughter was not accepted by the prosecution.

In evidence he had maintained that he pocketed the gun merely to frighten with no intention to hurt or kill, and

that the gun went off by accident. He said that, heavily disguised, he approached Miss Wooliscroft's till, uncrossed the muzzle of the gun and levelled it at her. She bent down out of view and he heard the sound of paper rustling.

He became impatient and thrust the gun forward at the glass partition. It went off and he heard a muffled scream. Then he grabbed £2,000 from the counter and left.

The jury convicted Mr Hart, of St Peter's Road, Basingstoke, after a retirement of two hours, 51 minutes.

In his summing-up the judge bad recalled the careful preparations Mr Hart made for the robbery.



An art critic living in Air
Said Le Piat has got what it takes.

Any skilled oenophile
Knows its delicate style
And would never be caught out by
jokes.



LE PLAT DE BEAUJOLAIS
Beaujolais at its very best.

Faults analysed in programme about Hitachi

By David Watts

Granada Television executives last night called a meeting of the production team involved in Monday's edition of the current affairs programme, *World in Action*, to analyse the faults in what one of the worst programmes they had ever made.

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Measures to help heavy drinkers and combat increasing alcoholism are proposed by the Government's Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.

It considers that moderate drinking is acceptable but there is urgent need to aid excessive drinkers, of whom it is estimated that there are at least 500,000 in England and Wales.

There should be a more balanced picture of the effects of alcohol in advertisements and when drinking is shown on television and elsewhere.

Television should ensure that alcohol does not become cheaper in real terms. There should be no relaxation of licensing laws as proposed. People who drink excessively should be given greater encouragement to recognize that they do and to seek help; and there should be more education about the dangers of heavy drinking.

Professor Neil Kessel, chairman of the committee, was asked at a press conference introducing the report yesterday to define heavy drinking. He replied that anyone drank just under half a bottle of spirit a day or seven to eight pints of beer was an excessive drinker.

The overall impression of the programme expressed by some viewers was that the television company was resurrecting the "yellow peril" by incorporating a clip from a B-grade movie about the Pacific War, and by implying that the Japanese company was not "playing fair" in trying to get a foothold in the EEC market.

The programme opened with an animated graphic of a Trojan horse, which was sliced open with a "samurai" sword to reveal names of the leading Japanese industrial giants, which are competing with their EEC counterparts. At the close of a shot of a Hitachi executive on a Louisiana golf course was transformed into medieval swordsman of evil countenance.

Pit vote 'mortgage threat'

By Margaret Stone

The miners' decision rejecting the proposed productivity deal has jeopardized a further mortgage interest rate cut this year according to Mr Albert Thayre, chief general manager of the Halifax Building Society, which terms itself the biggest in the world.

Mr Thayre said yesterday that before the ballot decision he had believed a cut in building society rates, now 9.5 per cent, was quite likely.

He said it would take longer for societies to determine the future prospects for general interest rates. Some societies, he observed, will also find it administratively difficult to cope with another mortgage rate change before the end of the year.

Sir Oliver Chesterton, chairman of the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, said he thought there "probably would be a cut in interest rates this year".

Malice or accident at Windscale 'could be a danger to the world'

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Whitehaven

Replies to some of the charges of questions raised by objectors at the Windscale public inquiry were given yesterday by the two main organizations, British Nuclear Fuels and Cumbria County Council, behind the application to build a new plant for reprocessing waste oxide nuclear fuel.

The final submission by Mr Glidewell, QC, for the council, examined the acceptability of the risks and countered some of the criticisms made about the efficiency of the government agencies and authorities responsible for controlling discharges of waste.

But Mr Glidewell also pointed to other weaknesses that needed a better supply of information, tighter monitoring, and additional research and control.

He said the county council, in November, 1976, decided that, if left to decide on the original application, it would grant permission. Its view had not changed.

The support of BNFL was not uncritical. He said it was apparent that discharges that would or could come from the plant, and the potential results of an accident, or of the intervention of malicious persons, could affect the whole population of Europe, and to an extent of the world.

Nevertheless the council's view remained and suggested that there was no proper reason for refusing permission.

He asked that recommendations made to the Secretary of State by Mr Justice Parker, in the report expected early in the new year, would include proposals to other government departments. They would outline improvements in arrangements for monitoring, control and communication of information, and about the funding of improvements to the infrastructure.

Before the plant was constructed and in operation decisions were needed on the granting of planning permission, a nuclear site licence, and a reprocessing permit.

If the time came for any further inquiry, it should be held jointly by the Secretaries of State for the Environment and for Energy. Mr Glidewell was not confident that there was any statutory power for that to be done.

Lord Silcox, QC, opening a final submission by BNFL, expected to take two days, focused attention on the immense energy reserves that would go untapped if reprocessing plans were not adopted.

He said two points were not

contested. The recovery and reuse of uranium and plutonium from the spent fuel rods from the advanced gas-cooled reactors coming into use in this country would, in a single recycle, add 30 to 40 per cent to the power generated from the original fuel.

The use of plutonium in fast-breeder reactors mixed with tailings of uranium 238 from enrichment plants would give vastly greater production of power, up to 50 times more efficiently.

In his view, that was a very considerable energy reserve in spent fuel, and the energy conservation possible by reprocessing offered a very striking achievement.

He also said it was not contested by Mr Scargill, who asked for nuclear stations to be closed, that spent fuel would arrive in predictable amounts from advanced gas-cooled reactors. BNFL had com-

pleted to reprocess 1,150 tonnes of foreign thermal reactor fuel.

The issue was to select the most satisfactory way of coping with that spent fuel. The possibilities included placing it in a retrievable store for an unspecified period; disposing of it as unprocessed spent fuel into geological formation; processing it for disposal with recovery of uranium but not plutonium; or keeping it for another decision.

The last course was that proposed by Friends of the Earth. They had argued eloquently, Lord Silcox maintained, for a delay of 10 years on a decision about reprocessing. He could not accept such a "wait-and-see" policy.

One reason was that it would take 20 years to develop a satisfactory means of storing fuel reliably. Spent fuel would arrive in unpredictable amounts from advanced gas-cooled reactors. BNFL had com-

pleted to reprocess 1,150 tonnes of foreign thermal reactor fuel.

An estimated gain of 10 to 20 per cent does not seem unrealisable.

That sounds an enticing prospect, but the campaigners have to face the sobering fact that Mrs Thatcher and most of the Shadow Cabinet will not have PR at any price, and Mr Pym and Mr Whitelaw are by no means enthusiastic.

The main battle on European direct elections will centre on the method of election, and most Conservatives will join Labour in demanding the "first past the post" system.

But the campaign is gradually making converts. It claims that in addition to the six committed reformers, 50 other Conservative MPs are "generally favourable" including Mr Ian Gilstrap, front-bench spokesman on defence, and Mr John Davies, Shadow Foreign Secretary.

25 Tory MPs urge voting reform

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

All Tory MPs and constituency associations are being canvassed by the 25 MPs belonging to Conservative Action for Electoral Reform to rally support for a party commitment to changing the Westminister electoral system.

An appeal sent out yesterday says that winning the next election is not going to be easy. The growth of the nationalist parties has further complicated the issue and will make it even more difficult to win an overall majority.

Conservatives would have to fight for every vote. "We cannot afford to ignore any political group that helps to unite the majority of the people and prevent a Labour government, dominated by its left wing, from gaining power again."

The MPs launching the

appeal have been encouraged by recent statements by Mr Pym, front-bench spokesman on defence, that it would be down to the party to close its mind to the possibilities that could be opened up by electoral change.

They recall that Mr Whiteley, shadow Home Secretary and deputy leader of the party, spoke favourably a year ago of using proportional representation for the elections to the proposed Scottish and Welsh assemblies.

Suggesting that electoral reform could be worth a million votes, the appeal says: "If we are going to win the next election we have to get a very substantial slice of the six million votes won by the Liberal Party in 1974."

"These people would be influenced to vote Conservative again if we gave a pledge on proportional representation."

Ulster Army camps investigated

By Our Political Staff

Mr Airey Neave, opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland yesterday took up his complaints about troops' accommodation in the province with Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence. Mr Neave's subsequent claims that Mr Mulley agreed that soldiers in permanent posts should not be expected to live in some of the substandard sites and that Conservative MPs are generally favourable to the Ulster Civil Liberties Association's demands for extra allowances for the troops would be reviewed by a Ministry of Defence representative.

He argued that the first point was hardly a "fair reflection" of what Mr Mulley had said since the Secretary of State had emphasized that operations and emergency requirements if Ulster could hardly be likened to peacetime standards. Also any further extra allowances to the troops could be made only within the guidelines of the Government's pay policy.

The spokesman added that officials would be surprised if much came of Mr Neave's suggestion that additional building should be acquired by the forces in Belfast.

Mr Mulley had called for full report on all Service accommodation there and conceded that any specific complaint should be brought to his attention privately.

After seeing Mr Mulley, who like him, was a prisoner-of-war in Poland, Mr Neave repeated his charge that the Colditz camp's accommodation, if not its conditions, "compare favourably with many places occupied by the Army in Northern Ireland".

Amnesty inquiry into interrogation in Ulster

By Christopher Walker

Irish Republic eventually led to the establishment of an official inquiry.

In Belfast, pressure groups representing both Protestants and Roman Catholics detailed dozens of cases where suspects are alleged to have been beaten and subjected to ill treatment while in police custody. Most of them relate to the large police holding centre at Castlereagh, on the outskirts of the city.

The Ulster Civil Liberties Advice Centre said three men released from Castlereagh within the past year were prepared to appear personally before the Amnesty team and give detailed evidence to back their allegations. All three are Protestants.

In addition the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (Nira) and the Association for Legal Justice, two Belfast-based organisations representing Roman Catholics, have drawn up a list of more than 20 recent cases in which mental and physical ill treatment is alleged.

The discussions touched on Northern Ireland only cross border economic cooperation, which EEC funds might support.

The main EEC issues discussed were enlargement to

include Greece, Portugal and Spain; direct elections to the assemblies; fisheries; and budget contributions.

Details of sites Britain's interest in preferential treatment for coastal fishermen. It will suffer financially if Britain is obliged to base her contribution on a more realistic exchange rate than the present artificial one of \$2.4 to the pound.

Irish legislation on direct elections should be through the Dail in a few weeks.

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HOME NEWS

Travel by rail can be expensive, unreliable and dirty, report says

By Michael Daly
Transport Correspondent

Travel by British Rail can be expensive, unreliable, and dirty, with inadequate catering, according to the November issue of *Which?*, published by the Consumers' Association. It concedes that Continental trains are in many respects worse, and efforts are being made to improve matters.

Which? inspectors travelling on 100 trains found that people preferred cars because travel by car was often cheaper for one person, and much cheaper for two or a family. For a 100-mile journey first-class rail cost £6 to £10, second-class £4 to £7, and bargain fare £2 to £3, against £5 to £3 by car for petrol only, £3 to £5 including maintenance costs, and £7 to £13 including replacement. The reduced fare system was "far too complicated and confusing".

Rail fares would rise more slowly if more people used the railways or if BR were run more efficiently. "There is a lot of evidence that it could be", the magazine says, or with higher subsidies, though across-the-board "subsidies" are generally not in the long-term consumer interest."

The magazine says 17 of the 200 trains were more than 15 minutes late, some were 20 to 30 minutes late. Three-fifths of them were on time, a fifth were more than five minutes late, and 8 per cent more than 15 minutes late.

For Inter-City trains the figures were worse: 38 per cent more than five and 18 per cent more than 15 minutes late. On Western Region 41 per cent were late. Those figures were markedly worse than those quoted by British Rail.

On Southern Region sub-

urban trains more than a quarter of the seats were very dirty, often full of dust and grease. On Inter-City comparatively few seats were dirty, but on Eastern Region many were "less than clean".

There were as many dirty windows as dirty seats; on Eastern and Southern one could often barely see through them. Floors were dirty on 38 per cent of second-class smoking compartments and 21 per cent in non-smoking ones.

There were no litter bins and ashtrays, and litter accumulated in buffer cars. A quarter of the lavatories examined were not clean, and a fifth of those in second class very dirty, many without soap, towel or hot water.

Fewer than a third of the Inter-City trains sampled had restaurant cars, and a third had no buffer or gateway service. On nearly a quarter there was a buffer, but it was closed for all or part of the journey. Food was limited.

British Rail yesterday welcomed the report for its constructive criticism, but said it was based on a small sample and gave a "less than fair and balanced picture". For example, British Rail traffic was rising, not falling, and most Continental railways received much bigger subsidies.

Reduced fares were bringing in passengers, new business, and while that led to some complexity BR was trying to keep the fares structure simple and easy to understand.

Efforts were made to improve cleanliness and catering: punctuality was not as bad as the report suggested, with four-fifths of Inter-City and 95 per cent of other trains arriving within five minutes of scheduled time during September.



Mr John Darwin: Jollity disguises a career of seriousness and distinction.

Looking for latter-day Guy Fawkes

By John Young

Today, as happens each year on the morning of the state opening of Parliament, a solemn little procession will make its way to the cellars of the Palace of Westminster, as experience that years later enabled him to assume command of the Westminster boilers during the strike of palace staff in 1975.

As an RAF squadron leader in the Second World War, he was responsible for airfield management during the siege of Malaya. Later he was appointed the RAF's chief electrical and mechanical engineer in the Far East, and supervised the construction of the important strategic airfield on the island of Guam in the Indian Ocean.

On returning to England he worked on designs varying from nuclear submarine bases to guided missile facilities, and from new types of dredger to a wind tunnel for testing the prototype Concorde. He retired as head of the Department of the Environment electrical group to take up his present post, in which he supervises nearly 200 staff.

It has been a far from uneventful period. After the strike in 1975, he recommended what he called "a great disaster" when, in the early hours of August 4 last year, metal fatigue caused severe damage to the frame and mechanism of Big Ben.

The clock was working again the same day, although the striking mechanism had to be stopped for some weeks. In his enthusiasm to ensure that the overhauls were completed in time for the Queen's jubilee address to Parliament last May Mr Darwin suffered a coronary while climbing the stairs of the tower, from which he is now happily recovered.

Misfortune struck again on August 17 when a heavy rain-storm caused drainpipes to overflow; it was later discovered that they were blocked by birds' nests. Several portraits in the Royal Gallery were damaged, but have since been successfully restored.

He has two main ambitions. One is to replace the heating and ventilation system, which was condemned as obsolete in 1894 and which means that most rooms in the palace are freezing in winter and sweltering in summer. "I reckon it will take at least six years, and I am just hoping that Joel Barnett (Chief Secretary to the Treasury) will give me some money," he says.

The other is to clean the outside of the palace. "I think it is disgraceful that the 'Mother of Parliaments', which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, is almost the only public building in London which is absolutely filthy."

Tesco seizes advantage in supermarket price war

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Consumers' Association magazine, *Which?*, has confirmed the Tesco grocery chain's claim to have seized the advantage in the High Street supermarket price war with its decision to abandon Green Shield stamps.

In its annual report on grocery prices *Which?* concluded that the most dramatic change since last year was in Tesco's prices. Checking the price of 20 basic grocery items in 1,151 shops throughout the United Kingdom, it found that Tesco, previously about average or slightly dearer than average, was clearly cheapest for leading manufacturers' brands and Hillard had become as competitive as Tesco.

For fresh fruit and vegetables the report points out that big savings can be made by changing grocery chains. For example, it says, people living in Wales shopping from VG to Tesco might save 18p in the pound.

Changing to own brands from leading manufacturers' brands would save, on average, about 12p in the pound, which could save the average household about £18 a year on its basic grocery bills.

East Europe vessels buy British-caught mackerel

Fishing vessels from East European countries, most of which have been banned from operating in the 300-mile zone around Britain, are buying hundreds of tons of mackerel every day from British rawlers fishing off the south-west coast.

They follow big British trawlers, wait for the catch to be hauled on board, then bid for it.

The catch is transferred at sea and taken back to Russia, Poland, East Germany or Bulgaria or transferred to factory ships to be processed for fishmeal or canned. Trawlers from Scotland, Humberside and Northern Ireland are benefiting, so are Cornish fishermen.

Mrs Daphne Lawrie, secretary

of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "As we are forced to put up with the Spanish and French, however, it is better for them to do their transactions at sea instead of cluttering up our overcrowded quays and harbours."

"Most of them have their own agents so the local industry does not benefit much even if these trawlers do land their catch at our ports."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said: "There is nothing we can do to stop it and it does our balance of trade some good. It is giving the fishermen a market for their fish which they might otherwise not have."

Historical record of social change in this decade

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

A fascinating insight into changes in social policy over the past seven years is offered in the first revision of the *Dictionary of Social Services* since it was first published in 1971.

Terms that used to be familiar to the minority who understood the national insurance scheme, like "contribution year" and "benefit year" have been removed, reflecting the transition from flat-rate contributions and benefits to a fully earnings-related scheme.

The recent identification of particular social difficulties has led to the inclusion of "battered wives" and "child abuse".

The dictionary was launched by the National Council for Social Services to enable people new to the world of social ser-

vices to understand the terms used by experienced practitioners.

The greater recognition given to the right of individuals to complain when services go wrong is reflected in the inclusion of the health service and local authority commissioners (or ombudsmen).

In the housing and environmental field, the new version offers explanations of "inner city", the Land Compensation Act, loans for house purchase, and the wide range of housing grants and subsidies now available.

In the employment field, the devolution of the main government department into specific agencies, such as the Manpower Services Commission and the Employment Services Agency, is explained.

New benefits given to disabled people, including the mobility allowance and the non-contributory invalidity pension, are mentioned, and so is the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

Miss Joan Clegg, compiler of both editions of the dictionary, points out in an introduction:

"With one and half million registered unemployed there is no room for complacency."

The dictionary was launched by Joan Clegg (Bedford Square Press, £2.95).

Colonel and two others accused of corruption

A lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Signals and two businessmen pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to corruption charges.

They are Lieutenant-Colonel David Arthur Charles Randal, aged 40, of the Garrison Officers' Mess Aldershot; Geoffrey Elliott Wellburn, aged 40, a company executive of Woodsidge Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire; and Frank Percival Nurdin, aged 60, a consultant of Barnet Road, Arkley, Hertfordshire.

The charges allege that Mr Wellburn and Mr Nurdin, on May 27, 1971, corruptly accepted £120 as an inducement or reward for showing favour, not showing disfavour, to Racal British Communication Corporation Ltd, in relation to the affairs of the Crown. Colonel Randal is alleged on the same day to have corruptly accepted £120 as an inducement or reward.

All three deny similar charges in relation to £7,000 on February 25, 1972; £5,000 on June 29, 1972; and £2,300 on October 26, 1972.

Motorway link opens

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, opened the final stretch of Stoke on Trent's motorway link road yesterday.

Complete list of the Government as the Commons resumes

THE CABINET

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury Mr James Callaghan (65)

Mr Michael Foot (64)

Lord Elwyn-Jones (68)

Mr Denis Healey (60)

Dr David Owen (39)

Mr Merlyn Rees (56)

Mrs Shirley Williams (47)

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn (52)

Mr Eric Varley (45)

Mr Peter Shore (53)

Mr Roy Mason (53)

Mr Bruce Millan (50)

Mr John Morris, QC (45)

Mr Frederick Mulley (59)

Mr Albert Booth (49)

Mr David Evans (55)

Mr Edmund Dell (56)

Lord Priti Seal and Leader of the House of Lords

Lord Peart

Industry Secretary of State Ministers of State

Mr Eric Varley (45)

Mr Alan Williams (47)

Mr Gerald Kaufman (47)

Mr Leslie Huchfield (53)

Mr Robert Coyer (42)

Law Officers' Department Attorney General

Mr Samuel Silkin, QC (59)

Mr Ronald King Murray (55)

Mr Peter Archer, QC (50)

Lord Advocate

Solicitor General

Mr Robert MacLennan (47)

Under-Secretaries of State

Lord Chancellor's Office

Lord Chancellor

Northern Ireland Office

Mr Roy Mason (47)

Mr John Concannon (47)

Lord Melchett (59)

Mr James Dunn (51)

Mr Raymond Carter (42)

Overseas Development

Minister of State Parliamentary Secretary

Mrs Judith Hart (53)

Mr John Tomlinson

Privy Council Office

Lord President of the Council

Minister of State

Parliamentary Secretary

Mr Michael Foot (59)

Mr John Smith (29)

Mr William Price (43)

Scottish Office

Secretary of State

Ministers of State

Mr Bruce Millan (49)

Mr Gregor MacKenzie (49)

Lord Kirkhill (47)

Mr Hugh Brown (58)

Mr Harry Ewing (46)

Mr Frank McElhone (49)

Trade

Secretary of State

Under-Secretaries of State

Mr Edmund Dell (56)

Mr Clinton Davis (53)

Mr Michael Meacher (37)

Transport

Secretary of State

Under-Secretaries of State

Mr William Rodgers (58)

Mr John Horam (38)

Treasury

First Lord

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Chief Secretary

Parliamentary Secretary (Chief Whip)

Mr Joel Barnett (54)

Mr Michael Cocks (48)

HOME NEWS

Academy may close the door to undesirable visitors

By Peter Stratford

An attempt is to be made at the British Academy next week to prevent future visits by such figures as Mr Vaclav Kral, head of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Institute in Prague.

Mr Kral, a historian, is in London on an exchange arranged by the academy and is doing research at the Public Record Office. His visit has attracted criticism because of his role as a persecutor of other Czech historians, who have lost their jobs for not following a sufficiently pro-Soviet line.

Mr Michael Evans, the overseas secretary of the British Academy, said yesterday that he had written a paper arguing that the wording of the exchange agreement under which Mr Kral had come to London should be changed, so that if in future the academy could refuse to accept visitors to whom it objected. The paper would be discussed at a meet-

ing of the academy's council next Thursday.

At present, Mr Evans said, the academy was required to accept all visitor proposed by the Academy of Sciences in Prague, with which the agreement has been signed. One Czech visitor came to Britain each year, and one British visitor went to Czechoslovakia.

Mr Evans said he shared objections that have been made to Mr Kral. He regarded him as a falsifier of history in the books he had written and said Mr Kral had been responsible for the persecution of many Czech historians who had not followed a pro-Soviet line.

Mr Evans thought that the academy's council of 25 members headed by Sir Isaiah Berlin, the president, would share his views on the need to change the wording of the agreement. If the Czech Academy did not agree, it might be better to do without the agreement, which was made in 1972.

Drive for adult literacy is given top priority

By Diana Gledhill

Education Correspondent

The first act of the new Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education has been to set up a subcommittee to work out a policy for the future of Britain's estimated two million adult illiterates.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr Oakes, Minister of State, attended the first meeting in London of the 22 members of the advisory council, chaired by Professor Richard Hoggart, Warden of Goldsmiths' College, London.

They made clear that they looked to the council as an independent body, with wide terms of reference, to strengthen the lobby for adult education and give it an influential new voice at a time when economic stringency is leading several local authorities to cut provision for adult education.

Mrs Williams suggested that among issues the council would doubtless want to consider would be the forging of stronger links between formal higher education and the more informal provision for adult education; concern for securing the proper opportunities for adults with basic educational needs; and the educational implications of changing technology, of developing industrial democracy, and of earlier retirement.

The council's administrative costs, all met by the Government, are expected to be between £45,000 and £55,000 in the first year.

Clubs 'failing to meet old people's needs'

From Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent
Harrogate

Large numbers of very old people are living in extreme loneliness with no family to turn to, Dr Mark Abrams, former head of surveys of the Social Science Research Council, told the triennial conference of Age Concern at Harrogate yesterday.

He said that unless changes were made now in public attitudes to old people the next generation of the elderly would live similarly isolated existences.

Dr Abrams said elderly people did not go to clubs designed for them because the clubs did not meet their needs. Friendly neighbours were much more important than organized activities.

He based his forecast on a sample of 1,600 people aged 75 and over which is to be published by Age Concern. It showed that more than a third of the age group have no children to turn to for support, either because they have never had any or because they have outlived them.

More than half felt extremely lonely, with nearly a fifth stating that they had never dreamt that they could feel so lonely. Only one in 10 belonged to clubs for the elderly, and 15 per cent wanted help with taking a bath, a service that was not offered.

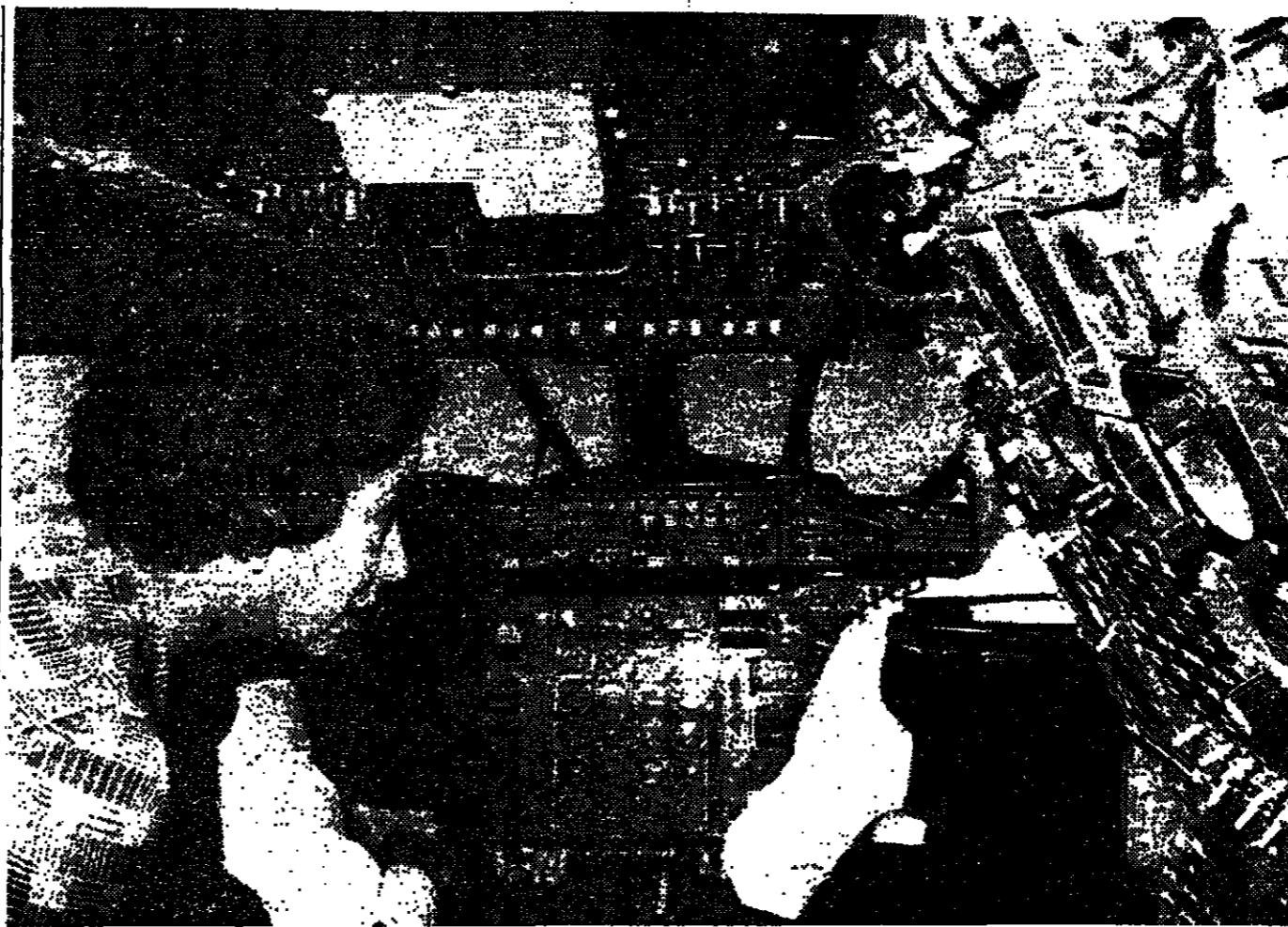
A sample of people aged between 65 and 74 produced similar results, showing that the next generation of very old people are also likely to lead isolated and lonely lives.

"We need to produce the real facts and substitute them for conventional wisdom about the elderly," Dr Abrams said. "The prospect in the 1980s and 1990s of a large group of elderly people with no offspring to turn to for support is very large unless something is done now."

His survey showed that in both age groups contact with immediate families made no difference to the likelihood of them seeking companionship in clubs. In the younger age group twice as many women living alone as those living with their children went to clubs. But the number of women who joined clubs was less than a fifth of those living alone.

Admiralty research

The Admiralty Marine Technology Establishment has been chosen as the name for a new Ministry of Defence research establishment.



The Queen taking a close look at the crowded banks of instruments when she visited the flight deck of Concorde on her way home from Barbados yesterday.

At the parish pump: An incident on the beach at Barafundle Bay

Court told of the naked man from the sea

By Michael Horsnell

Birds, deaths and some undignified sexual antics hold their usual prominent positions in the columns of local newspapers throughout Britain this week.

And judging from the advertising revenue that must be pouring into the coffers of many weeklies, nothing will ever replace that trusted formula of "hatches, matches and dispatches" in the affections of local publishers for whom the grey columns of the serious national newspapers must seem as impersonal as they usually are unprofitable.

In its series of eavesdropping at the parish pump, *The Times* has discovered the most touching story of the week, in the Bedfordshire Times, which was published on the day that young Kerri-Anne Dougan celebrated her fifth birthday with her parents in the small village of Clapham. What made the occasion extra special was the fact that Kerri-Anne underwent an awful struggle for survival 12 months before, when she was born weighing 1lb 12oz at Bedford Hospital. Her parents were told not to hold out too much hope for her. Today she is a happy bouncing baby.

At the other end of the life cycle the *Brecon and Radnor Express* sadly reports the passing of several local worthies. The funeral gloom is lifted with reports of the Baptist Missionary Society Women's Auxiliary meeting in Brecon and a dance at Bishop Meadow, Brecon, organized by the local committee for cancer relief.

But in between those light-hearted affairs is the sombre reminder of death and after often to be found in Welsh newspapers: "Doug Prosser, the only undertaker in Brecon with his own bears".

If "hatches and dispatches" did particularly well in the past week so did the other.

The *Western Telegraph* and *Cymric Times*, published at Haverfordwest, reported the case of a man who emerged naked from the sea and

Civil Service moderates win round 1 on elections

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Members of the Civil and Public Services' Association, Britain's biggest Civil Service union, have voted 76,640 to 22,506 in favour of individual rather than branch balloting in elections of officials.

But that referendum result has yet to be debated at a rules revision conference at Southport later this month, when a two-thirds majority will be required to abandon the branch system.

Moderates favour the individual ballot on the ground that branch elections tend to exclude non-activists who cannot be bothered to attend meetings. Leading right-wingers said yesterday that the result was a magnificent vindication of their view that the members as a whole wanted the change.

But since fewer than half the union's 234,000 members took part and a large minority of branches did not issue ballot papers the outcome of the conference is uncertain.

Mr Leonard Lever, the association's president, said: "The number of people who took part in the poll was higher than expected, and so was the size of the majority. But many of the people who took part voted without discussion of the sort there will be at the conference."

The internal dissension between the left and right over this issue surfaced briefly at yesterday's press conference to announce the results, while the two sides argued over the virtue of a change and the reasons why so many branches had failed to produce referendum returns.

Both sides acknowledged that some branches had felt daunted by the prospect because of the wide geographical distribution of members.

Mr Charles Elliott, a leading right-winger, the original proposer of the policy change and a member of the association's general purposes committee, said political reasons had been behind many branches failure to carry out the referendum.

Mr Reginald Williams, the union's left-wing senior vice-president, said an investigation of the branches that did not respond would show that both right-wing and left-wing-dominated branches had not taken part.

Early December will mark the birth of supersonic travel to the Far East, with the introduction of Singapore Airlines' regular Concorde services between London and Singapore.

SIA's new Concorde service means yet another first for the airline and positions SIA as only the third carrier in the world to operate supersonic aircraft.

SIA's Concorde will complete the journey in just over nine hours including a stop at Bahrain. Flights depart London at 11.05pm every Sunday Wednesday and Friday, arriving in Singapore at 6.05am the following morning, in time for convenient connections to major cities throughout South East Asia.

Return flights leave Singapore every Monday Thursday and Saturday at 11.30am, arriving London at 1.15pm the same day. *SINGAPORE AIRLINES*

Operated in association with British Airways

SINGAPORE AIRLINES GOES SUPERSONIC!

HOME NEWS

Working-class people 'reluctant to use publicly owned sports and leisure facilities'

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Large publicly owned and financed sports centres and "leisure complexes" are benefiting mainly the better off, not the whole community as was intended, a report by the Department of the Environment states.

Its findings are similar to those of a report published last month by Political and Economic Planning, which advocated a network of smaller and more accessible facilities.

The department's report, published yesterday, observes that local authorities rarely carry out any monitoring as to who uses their sports facilities, their socio-economic status or incomes. There thus appear to be no policies to increase participation by those who do not use them.

It quotes an unofficial study of recreation in inner London which found that most people using it were in the white-collar professions, and that four fifths of them came by car. The dominant activities were squash, badminton and tennis, which were traditionally higher-income sports.

The existence of an appar-

ently unspecified demand among the middle classes and their "skill" in using available facilities have resulted not only in resentment by local people but a reluctance by them to use such facilities at all, the report states. They have a sense of exclusion and a feeling that "people like us don't go".

It cites the case of a sports centre near a working-class estate where "the local people never got a look in, the clubs began booking straightaway and the report got around that it was exclusively for posh people and so it was not for them".

The locals, mostly immigrants, were intimidated by the building and by the attitudes of the staff. They also complained about visitors parking their cars in the adjoining streets.

The report, however, implies that working-class attitudes and habits may be at least partly to blame. It quotes another survey, which found that on a council estate in Hammersmith, with a wide variety of arts, drama, music, sports and educational facilities in the neighbourhood few residents availed themselves of them. Immigrants in particular, even

viewed the public library as the middle classes and their "skill" in using available facilities have resulted not only in resentment by local people but a reluctance by them to use such facilities at all, the report states. They have a sense of exclusion and a feeling that "people like us don't go".

It cites the case of a sports centre near a working-class estate where "the local people never got a look in, the clubs began booking straightaway and the report got around that it was exclusively for posh people and so it was not for them".

The report suggests that local authorities should cease to be "paper-pushing providers of facilities" and increase support for existing leisure institutions, encouraging them in new enterprises.

In a foreword, Mr Howe R., Minister for Sport and Recreation, emphasizes that the report is a research document and not a statement of government policy. But he adds: "I am concerned that at a time of severe economic restraint we should re-examine our whole policy to leisure provision to ensure that all the physical and human resources in the community are fully and effectively utilized".

Recreation and Deprivation in Inner Urban Areas (Stationery Office, £1.50).

Further council changes opposed

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Any change in the existing functions of the two tiers of local government would inevitably result in considerable cost to the ratepayer, the Association of County Councils was told yesterday.

Mr Gervase Walker, chairman of the association's policy committee, told members that the Government might be planning a "reorganization by stealth" of some of the functions of the county and district authorities.

At the same time the Association of District Councils released a memorandum to the Government proposing changes in the allocation of functions between the two tiers because it was "particularly concerned about the expense, waste, uncertainty and delay stemming from the present overlaps and duplication of powers".

Speaking on the eve of the Queen's Speech, Mr Walker said that if the Government were to look at the division of functions "we could find ourselves faced gradually with profound changes without major legislation".

If no mention was made in the Queen's Speech, members should not be lulled into thinking that the matter had been dropped. He believed that Mr

Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, was determined to bring about an "organic change" in the two-tier system.

Mr Walker said the Labour Party's document on English devolution published in August might be the forerunner of future policies. It had been suggested that the nine biggest non-metropolitan cities might be given back some of the functions they had as county boroughs before reorganization.

"It is not just the nine. There are many other old county boroughs which would welcome their powers back again, and that would be a move towards a complete reorganization, and towards regionalism, which the association is firmly against."

There was ample evidence that the services considered for transfer, including education and the social services, were the very ones that were now working smoothly and giving a better service to the community. "That is what local government is about: service to the community, not how the members of an authority can wield more power."

Mr Walker asked the Government to make a categorical statement that it would not tamper with local government, to re-

assure both council staff and the public.

"There is not one shred of evidence that services would be at all improved. It would be a reorganization that nobody wants."

In its observations on the government consultative document, *Devolution: the English Dimension*, the Association of District Councils emphasized the need to bring local government closer to the people it served. "Bigotry is no longer born, and the old argument of economies of scale can be a snare and delusion where finance and priorities are outside the control of elected district members who are closest to the public."

Decision-making should be at district level wherever practicable. "The public turns instinctively to the district councillor and local town hall with any problems about the public services."

The association has made proposals to give district authorities some of the essential local services, notably personal social services, non-strategic planning and highways/traffic management where they have the capacity and resources to do so.

"The appeal of standards of catering in many public places . . . is to flog a dead horse."

AA Guide to Hotels and Restaurants, £3.25 (or £2.95 to members, £3.25 by post).

Listeners face difficulties over BBC changes

By Staff Reporter

The radio wavelength changes announced by the BBC, which will come into effect in a year's time, may present difficulties to listeners whose radio sets do not receive on all three wavebands: long wave, medium wave and VHF.

The changes will mean that listeners who have turned to medium wave for both Radio Four and Radio Three transmissions will have to look elsewhere in future: to long wave for Radio Four and to VHF (at least during the hours of darkness) for Radio Three.

At present, the BBC estimates almost half of the sets in use in the United Kingdom provide VHF coverage, and about seven eighths provide long wave reception.

Many people will thus be forced to buy new sets if they want comprehensive coverage, and although there is a wide selection of radios available, many do not provide all three wavebands.

The BBC has already been discussing the wavelength changes with British radio manufacturers, but most radio sets sold in the United Kingdom are now imported and so British listeners are now rather dependent on what foreign makers will supply.

Many foreign sets will provide medium wave and VHF but do not include long wave, although BBC executives believe that the source of a large proportion of the sets sold in Britain, there is now increasing interest in the use of long waves.

Britain's wealth of spoon-benders give scientists a topic for discussion

By Alan Hamilton

Britain and Japan have a higher proportion of spoon-benders than any other countries in the world, according to an American researcher into the paranormal.

The two countries have, for no good reason, more than their fair share of the estimated 10,000 gifted people in the world who can distort cutlery simply by thinking about it, although there is a strong linkage from Brazil.

Those and other recent discoveries into the phenomenon launched by Mr Uri Geller on a celebrated BBC television programme four years ago are to be discussed by a panel of scientists at a conference at the Commonwealth Institute in London tomorrow evening.

Dr Andrija Puharich, a Yugoslav-born scientist now working in the United States, has carried out exhaustive tests on Mr Geller and has since examined more than seventy other people with similar powers.

He said yesterday: "All I and my colleagues say that spoon-bending is not a showman's trick. We have verified the phenomenon, but we cannot explain it."

The conference is being organized by the Orb Foundation, an American educational charity which has recently opened a branch in London. During an hour-long interview at the foundation's West End offices, all my pens ran dry, but Dr Puharich disclaimed all responsibility.

Dr Puharich, a former United

will include Professor John Taylor, Professor of Mathematics at King's College London, and Colonel Tom Bearden, a retired United States Army officer, who has sinister ideas on the military implications of spoon-bending.

Colonel Bearden believes that the Soviet Union is twenty years ahead of the West on what he calls "psychokinetic weapons", and believes that microwave radiation allegedly being beamed at the American Embassy in Moscow is being used to implant unpatriotic thoughts into the minds of anti-Soviet staff.

"What we need," Dr Puharich said, "is another Einstein to draw up a theory we can prove. For the present, we have difficulty in convincing people that we are on to something."

Dr Puharich, a former United

Spy to appeal against order of deportation

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

Nicholas Prager, aged 49, an electrical engineer, formerly of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, who left Wakefield prison on Monday after serving six years of a 12-year sentence for passing Britain's V-bomber secrets while serving in the RAF, is to appeal against a deportation order, notice of which has been served on him. He will meet Mr Jack Levi, his solicitor, tomorrow to work out the details.

Mr Levi said last night that

Mr Prager was in a unique position. On the one hand he is on parole which continues until the end of his sentence, and yet he has been issued with notice of a deportation order.

The deportation is to Czechoslovakia, but they will not accept him, according to his wife. The British authorities may keep him here until some country will accept him."

WEST EUROPE

AA awards seven superlative citations

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Automobile Association today names the most restful refuge from the hurly-burly of modern living in Britain. In its opinion, backed by a full colour page in the 1977 AA *Guide to Hotels and Restaurants* published today, it is Lastingham Grange, a hotel in 10 acres of its own fields and gardens beside Spurnhoe Moor, North Yorkshire.

Mr Dennis Wood, whose family has run the hotel since 1955, was rueful about the accolade yesterday, feeling that if he had been the goose that laid the golden egg he might just have been killed.

"It seems to defeat the object of the exercise," he said. "We may have charrabancs rolling up soon and be overrun with people." Meanwhile, according to the AA book, "visitors recall the sound of the wind, bird song and humung insects". The place obviously has charm: Mr Wood first went there in 1950 for a holiday.

The AA gives six other superlative citations. To the Rioz Hotel goes the nomination for the most elegant dining room, although Conard, the new owner, has yet to complete its £2.5m refurbishment in other parts of the hotel.

Britain's most exciting restaurant is in Edinburgh. It is called Flappers and has what the AA calls "dramatic 1920s decor with lasting visual impact". Scotland has the prettiest restaurant too, La Posterie, at Culbane, Lichfield, a converted sweet shop with the atmosphere of a cottage parlour.

The most authentic United Kingdom period restaurant, traditionalist and do-it-yourself barbecues.

The guide recommends nearly five thousand places. Of 4,052 hotels classified only 57 are awarded red stars for special merit. Of 1,146 restaurants, six win triple rosettes for excellent cuisine.

The AA concludes: "The guide recommends scope for improvement, although our best restaurants have never been better, and there are more and better hotels, and more that are better run". We also have some of the world's most remarkable planning and highways/traffic management where they have the capacity and resources to do so.

"The appeal of standards of catering in many public places . . . is to flog a dead horse."

AA Guide to Hotels and Restaurants, £3.25 (or £2.95 to members, £3.25 by post).

France flies out troops in hostages move

From Ian Murray
Paris, Nov 2

France has sent several DC3 transport aircraft to Cap Vert, near Dakar, Senegal, with reinforcements for the garrison there as a result of recent events in the Western Sahara. The aircraft left the airport of Toulouse-Blaquinière during the night, but official sources so far have refused to say how many men were on board.

The likelihood is that 300 of the commandos and paratroopers who have been on stand-by since last week, when news came of the taking of two more French hostages in the Western Sahara, have been sent to within easy striking distance of the Polisario rebels. The Polisario guerrillas are fighting for the independence of Western Sahara, which has been divided between Morocco and Mauritania.

France is maintaining strong diplomatic pressure on Algeria, which is held responsible for arming and harbouring the Polisario, to use its influence to free the hostages. With six others taken in May and five who had disappeared in January of last year, the guerrillas are believed to be holding 13 French nationals. So far nothing has been heard of any of them since the capture.

In French eyes these actions are not less reprehensible than that of the hijacking of the Air France Boeing last month. It is hoped here that they will be similarly condemned when the United Nations discusses hijacking on Tuesday.

The Algerians see things differently. Whatever proof there is of their material support for the movement, there is no proof that they have been able to control the guerrillas.

The Polisario movement has not been recognized by France. It is possible that if this were done, it would smooth the way to negotiations to free the hostages.

President Ould Dadah of Mauritania, where the French technicians kidnapped last week were working, said in an interview that the Polisario guerrillas were Algerian mercenaries. They would not dare to do what they had without Algerian support.

The hostages are probably scattered in different camps in the desert, which would make any military operation to rescue them almost impossible.

Algeria, Nov 2.—Mr Muhammad Ould Saleh, the Polisario Minister of Information, said in a press interview today: "The dispatch of French troops to Mauritania via Dakar unmasks the designs of the French Government against our region and the African continent."

Woman jailed for spying

Düsseldorf, Nov 2.—A West German Foreign Ministry woman secretary was jailed for spying for East Germany. Helga Berger, aged 36, admitted passing Government secrets to East Germany during 10 years as a secretary in West Germany's trade mission in Warsaw, the embassy in Paris and the Foreign Ministry in Bonn.

Memorial altar for Callas donated

Sixtione, Italy, Nov 2.—Signor Giovanni Battista Meneghini, the estranged husband of the late Maria Callas, has donated a sixteenth-century altar piece to a local church to honour the memory of the singer, who died in Paris last September.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Maurits Caransa telling reporters how he was chained to a bed for five days.

Kidnappers free Dutch millionaire for £2m in traceable banknotes

From Our Correspondent

Amsterdam, Nov 2

Mr Maurits Caransa, the Dutch property millionaire kidnapped last Friday, was set free yesterday after negotiating his own release for a ransom of about £2m.

He said his captors had insisted emphatically that they were not political prisoners.

"We were not in trouble," they said. Oddly enough, they accepted the ransom in broad new £1,000 notes (about £220), notes which were sealed for 10m guilders.

He said his captors had agreed to release him on payment of the ransom.

Five days almost to the minute since he was seized outside an Amsterdam nightclub on Friday Mr Caransa was left by his captors in a square in Amsterdam's harbour quarter at about 1.30 am.

During his 12-hour captivity, Mr Caransa said, he had been kept handcuffed to a bed in almost total darkness.

Five days earlier, he was seized outside an Amsterdam nightclub on Friday Mr Caransa was left by his captors in a square in Amsterdam's harbour quarter at about 1.30 am.

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OVERSEAS

Council proposed for supervising ethics code to end corruption

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Nov. 2

Corruption had become such a "creeping pollution" of the social, political and economic life in most countries of the world that governments must be shamed into action to erase it, Lord Shawcross said in an address to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

In some parts of South-East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, corruption was so prevalent that it was an accepted way of life and not regarded as unethical at all.

"There are only two countries in which corruption no longer exists, although once it did," Lord Shawcross said. One is China, from whose third tour of which I have just come back. The other is Singapore in which under the strong leadership of that remarkable man, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, corruption has been vigorously suppressed."

For the rest, corruption occurred in virtually all countries and was eroding the fair and open competition on which private enterprise was based.

Lord Shawcross made it clear that his remarks were not directed at Hongkong, which was tackling the problem in a realistic way, but he was speaking here as the result of an invitation from the Chamber to address it on the problem of international corruption.

In the international field, corruption is by no means confined to the police and to public officials," he said. "It is something which in all countries—although more in some than others—is a creeping pollution of our social, political and economic life."

Its existence is being used, with great hypocrisy, in the United Nations and elsewhere by some developing countries as a stick with which to beat private enterprise in general and the transnational corporations in particular, regardless of the fact that it is in these very countries that the hands are being held out to receive the bribes which would never be paid but for the pressures which are exerted on those engaged in international commerce. Bribery now is mainly the reaction to extortion."

In 1975 the International Chamber of Commerce set up a commission to study the problem, consisting of himself, M Jean Key, one-time chairman of the European Commission, Shukri Yamani of Saudi Arabia, Mr Kharedjion, a leading banker from Iran, Mr William Simon, a former Secretary of the United States Treasury, and other well-known figures. They presented their report a month ago.

"It contains strong recommendations to governments to

clear up matters in their own countries. We must shame some of these governments into action. But the international business community cannot afford to wait upon action by governments which will take years. We must act now."

We have drawn a code of ethical practices to combat extortion and bribery of kickbacks. They insist upon proper and true financial records—no false invoices or slush funds and so forth.

The observance of this code will, of course, voluntary so they considered it essential to set up an international council to supervise its application; otherwise it would be a toothless animal.

We already have such a council to administer the code on advertising and marketing practices which has worked well. The proposed council would have as a last resort, only if legal action, diplomatic representation or negotiation was not available, the right, in discretion, to hear complaints that the code had been broken."

But even here the council could adjudicate only if the concern against which the complaint was made consented to the jurisdiction.

These were perhaps but milk teeth, but they could afford great protection to businesses exposed to extortion. They would be able to say: "We cannot pay because we should get into trouble under the ICC code."

The commission's work was finished and it was now for the International Chamber of Commerce meeting at the end of the month to decide whether to adopt the report. Our Business News Staff writes: A spokesman for the International Chamber of Commerce said in London that the commission's report would be considered by its policy-making council on November 29. To the best of his knowledge, there was no intention of making the draft code on ethical practices public until the council had met.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The House of Representatives yesterday passed a Bill to outlaw bribes and other improper payments by American companies and their foreign subsidiaries. It sets a \$1m (£50,000) fine for corporations making such payments. Officers and directors who approved these payments would face \$10,000 fines and up to five years jail.

A similar Bill was passed by the Senate in May but the fines it proposed are smaller and foreign subsidiaries are not covered, so a House-Senate conference may be needed to work out these differences.

Reuter.

Hit-and-run journalist must go to jail

Hongkong, Nov. 2.—A Canadian journalist today failed to persuade a magistrate to review a jail sentence for offences arising from a hit-and-run traffic accident in which a policeman was severely injured.

Barrie Came, of Newsweek magazine, was last week convicted of dangerous driving, causing grievous bodily harm, and failing to stop after an accident. He was jailed for a month, fined about £240 and disqualified from driving for two years.

Rejecting an application for a review of sentence, Mr Paul Corfe, the magistrate, said he appreciated that the driving ban would affect Mr Came's career.

Manila troops overrun Muslim camp

Zamboanga City, Nov. 2.—Government forces overran a large Muslim rebel camp in the southern Philippines yesterday after two weeks of fierce fighting, military authorities said today.

They said that a number of rebel officers and men were either killed or captured in the stronghold in the mountains of Tabon, 50 miles north-east of Zamboanga City.

A number of government soldiers were reported killed but no official casualty figures were released. Tabon was described as a rough and foggy coastal area difficult to penetrate by ground forces.—UPI.

Greek protest at shelving of Cyprus atrocities report

From Our Correspondent

Athens, Nov. 2

Greece has protested strongly to the EEC over its initiative in having the report of the Human Rights Commission on alleged Turkish atrocities in Cyprus shelved at the last meeting of the Council of Europe.

The report, excerpts of which have leaked to the British press, is still officially secret. So is the Turkish Government's 500-page reply and counter-charges.

Now it is understood that a proposal sponsored by the EEC governments, postponing publication of the report was adopted at a recent meeting. The proposal gives a time-limit of nine months for the adoption of "appropriate measures" to remedy human

rights abuses in Cyprus, but apparently does not specify which side must adopt the measures.

Mr Demetrios Bassis, the Greek Foreign Minister, last week summoned the Belgian Ambassador to express the Greek Government's sharp reaction and annoyance at the position taken by the EEC countries.

It is understood that Mr Bassis described the EEC move as a blow to the prestige and credibility of the Council of Europe.

There are indications that the shelving of the report was prompted by hopes that the elimination of this embarrassing issue would help current American-EEC efforts to induce Turkey to make concessions that would facilitate a Cyprus settlement.

The Prince of Wales buys himself a painting

Canberra, Nov. 2.—The Prince of Wales began his 11-day visit to Australia in Canberra today by presenting a prize for an essay on Australia and the monarchy to the great granddaughter of a seamstress to Queen Victoria.

He asked 17-year-old Annette Shoolman, winner of the nationwide competition: "Was the essay polite?" Her only answer was a giggle.

Observing that 15 per cent of the schoolchildren who submitted entries were in favour of a republic, the Prince remarked: "That really means 85 per cent are in favour of the monarchy, and that's not a bad score in these times."

Competition judges said they were disappointed at the stan-

dard of the 6,000 entries and called for a review of the teaching of British history in Australian schools.

The Prince later opened an exhibition of paintings entitled "The Bushmen of the Bush", the proceeds of which went to charity.

He bought himself a painting of his favourite sport, polo, for \$A450 (£280). The painting, by John N. Pickton, is called "The Home Team attacks." It shows an outback polo match at Broken Hill in the far west of New South Wales.

Afterwards he walked through the streets of Canberra, joking and shaking hands with passers-by. He leaves for Brisbane tomorrow.—Reuter and AP.



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OVERSEAS

Lord Carver pelted with rotten tomatoes by an African group on his arrival in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Nov 2

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner designate in Rhodesia, today arrived in the city which may soon become his temporary home. His reception by Rhodesian government officials was cordial, but he received a hostile welcome from a group of African demonstrators.

Lord Carver is in Salisbury to talk about arranging a ceasefire between the Rhodesian armed forces and guerrillas belonging to the nationalist Patriotic Front. As if to underline the urgency of his mission, shortly after his arrival a rocket fired from Zambia hit a luxurious hotel at Victoria Falls, setting the roof ablaze. Mr Pieter van der Byl, the Foreign Minister, commented that this was Zambia's way of welcoming Lord Carver on his peace mission.

Lord Carver was followed by General Frank Chaud, the United Nations representative, who was accompanied by Mr

James Jonah from Sierra Leone, Mr Macaire Padoum, from Togo, Mr Benon Sevan, from Cyprus, and Colonel Gerald O'Sullivan from the Irish Army.

Both Lord Carver and General Chaud arrived from Dar es Salaam where they had held talks with Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the leaders of the Patriotic Front. They are travelling separately to make it clear that they have different functions.

Lord Carver received a noisy welcome when he arrived at Mirimbe House, the former British High Commissioner's residence, where he is staying.

A group of about 60 supporters of the Zimbabwe United People's Organization (Zupo) brandished placards and pelted Lord Carver's car with rotten bananas and tomatoes.

Zupo, an organization comprising traditional tribal leaders, has not been invited to meet Lord Carver.

Shortly after this incident Lord Carver and General Chaud began their first round of talks with Rhodesian military leaders.

Present on the Rhodesian side were Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, commander of combined operations, Lieutenant-General John Hickman, the Army commander, Air Marshal Frank Mawson, chief of the Air Force and Police Commissioner Peter Sherren.

It is expected that Lord Carver will stay in Rhodesia until the end of the week. He will have further meetings with military and civilian officials as well as the heads of the two internally based nationalist groups, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndapeneng Shole.

According to informed sources Lord Carver will visit other African states. These are expected to include other "front line" states—Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia—and probably Nigeria.

The rocket incident took place at Victoria Falls, close to the Zambian border. According to a military spokesman a rocket seeking a target was fired at a light aircraft which was flying tourists over the falls, missed and hit the thatched roof of the Elephant Hills hotel.



Kremlin chiefs and leaders of foreign Communist parties listen as President Brezhnev delivers his 90-minute address.

Mr Carter losing support

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 2

An opinion poll published by The New York Times today shows a further stamp in President Carter's popularity.

Mr Carter's overall approval rating has dropped to 65 per cent. It was 62 per cent in July and 66 per cent last January. The public's confidence in the President's ability to carry out his various electoral promises also dropped.

Fifty-one per cent think that he can restore trust in government (compared with nearly 70 per cent last summer), only 35 per cent think he can reduce unemployment substantially and 22 per cent he can balance the budget by 1981.

Other findings in the poll are more encouraging for the President. Only 31 per cent approve, and 50 disapprove, of the way Congress is doing its job. Carter's policies are 55 and 27, respectively.

On his specific policies, however, the President lacks support. The Panama treaties are opposed by 49 per cent of those asked and defended by 29 per cent, while 51 per cent do not believe there is an energy crisis.

House and Senate at odds on energy bill

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 2

The Senate has completed its energy Bills. These measures are now being considered, together with the radically different Bill from the House of Representatives, by a joint committee of the two Houses.

The two versions are so incompatible, and the positions taken by the two sides are so intransigent, that it remains quite possible that there will be no Bill at all. President Carter was planning to leave on a world tour on November 22 and may very well have to postpone the trip in order to iron out his energy package through.

Sixty-seven members of the House have sent a letter to Mr Carter urging him to stick to his guns. The House Bill has produced a version of Mr Carter's other proposed tax, that on power companies and industries which use oil instead of coal. However, it would only apply to users of fuel oil who could not afford to cut if they wished, and contains many exemptions.

Mr Long is chairman of the Finance Committee and the Senate last week gave him carte blanche for his dealings with the House in the joint committee. His skill on such occasions is a prodigy of modern times: no other senator in idiotic.

memory can match it, and the House liberals are rightly afraid Mr Long represents the oil-producing state of Louisiana.

He accepts that there is an oil crisis and that consumption must be curbed, but he does not believe that the oil companies are engaging in "the greatest rip-off in history", as Mr Carter has said.

The President and the House want oil production to be taxed at its price up and to discourage consumption and tax "gas-guzzler" cars which use too much petrol. Mr Long's committee (and the full Senate) rejected both these taxes and approved instead a series of tax exemptions on oil companies, to incite them to produce more oil.

The Senate has produced a version of Mr Carter's other proposed tax, that on power companies and industries which use oil instead of coal. However, it would only apply to users of fuel oil who could not afford to cut if they wished, and contains many exemptions.

The President proposed, and the House agreed, that tax raised from energy should be returned to the public in rebates. Mr Long thinks the idea is idiotic.

Drop in Soviet grain harvest surprises West

Moscow, Nov 2.—The Soviet grain harvest, a key factor in the country's economy, has fallen well below its official target this year, President Brezhnev disclosed today.

Speaking at a Kremlin rally, Mr Brezhnev said farmers were expected to produce 194m tonnes of grain, a level which will almost certainly mean increased Soviet purchases on the world market.

Western experts, who had predicted a fairly poor crop because of bad weather, were taken by surprise at the figure, about 10 tonnes short of the target.

It comes as a setback to Soviet agricultural experts who were hoping to follow up last year's record 223.8m tonnes.

The previous year a disastrous 140m tonne harvest led to shortages across the country and soaring grain imports.

Mr Brezhnev, touching briefly

on agriculture in his speech marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Revolution, announced that the cotton crop was expected to equal the previous 8.4m tonne record. Meat production had increased from last year's 13.4m tonnes to nearly 15m tonnes, he added.

He partly attributed the harvest losses to the poor weather which has plagued farmers throughout the Soviet Union. But he alluded to the chronic inefficiency which has affected Soviet agriculture since the Revolution.

"I believe these figures merit due appreciation, although we are aware that not all the problems of agriculture have been resolved," he said.

Western agricultural experts said the 1977 results were hurt by early summer droughts in a number of key grain-growing areas east of the Volga river, and by disastrous rains at har-

vest time in North Kazakhstan and Western Siberia.

The extent of those losses obviously caught Western analysts off guard since their latest October projections were for a 1977 Soviet harvest of 205m tonnes of grain. The harvest is now estimated to have been completed throughout the country and although the state is still purchasing grain in some regions, all harvesting and threshing has finished.

The final 1977 harvest figure would come within 2m tonnes of the figure projected by Mr Brezhnev. Western experts expect the figure will be the same as last year. In the first year of the pact which began with delivery in October, 1976, they bought about the minimum quantity.

The United States Department of Agriculture has said that so far this year the Soviet Union has bought about 2.3m tonnes. Up to 15m tonnes of American grain would be available for sale to Russia this year.

Warm US welcome for Brezhnev nuclear offer

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 2

The American Government gave a warm welcome this morning to President Brezhnev's proposals on a test ban treaty. Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, said that the President's speech was an important step forward towards a full test ban treaty.

Americans shared the Soviet view that there should be a downturn in the arms race, and he welcomed Mr Brezhnev's call for a moratorium on peaceful nuclear explosions. The proposed moratorium, he said, would run as long as the test ban treaty, which is being negotiated at Geneva, and the United States favoured a treaty running four or five years.

Mr Vance denied a report in The New York Times this morning which said the United States had warned the Soviet Union that if it tried and sentenced dissidents it would harm the chances of the SALT negotiations. However, the Secretary agreed that Washington had intended with the Soviet Government on behalf of the dissidents on a number of occasions, and that it had done so recently.

He denied that there was a direct "linkage" between human rights in Russia and aid. This is the line which has been taken by the Carter Administration from its early days, when it criticised the Soviet Union sharply (together with various other countries) for violating people's fundamental rights.

The détente policy, and the SALT treaty, will depend upon public support here, however, and it would not be surprising if American officials had pointed out to the Russians how little sympathy they win when they put dissidents, or Jewish emigrants, on trial.

The Secretary would not give any details of the state of the Salt negotiations (which are, anyway, readily available in this very leaky city) but said that they were proceeding well. He said that the Salt-II agreement would provide for a ban on the development and deployment of new missile systems, and that such a ban would be of great value to the peace of the world.

Mr Vance, who was giving his monthly press conference, was not very forthcoming on the various other matters raised. He said that it was still the American aim to reconvene the Geneva Middle East conference before the end of the year, but refused to guess how near to attainment that objective was.

He repeated that the United States was firmly committed to the security of Israel.

Mr Vance again deplored the "regrettable backward step" taken by the South African Government, saying that it had been made clear to Mr Vorster's ministerial delegation with Washington would improve if there were progress towards an end of apartheid, and that progress in the opposite direction would harm relations.

The United States had withdrawn its commercial counselor from Johannesburg and its naval attaché from Pretoria, and expected to vote for the mandatory arms trade ban in the Security Council. It had vetoed the ban on economic sanctions because there was no international consensus on the peace of the world.

Mr Vance was asked about President Carter's proposed trip to nine countries at the end of this month, which has been much criticized. Indeed, the President has yet called it in order to fight for the Energy Bill here.

The Secretary justified the trip, offering as one reason that the President would be able to emphasize to America's main suppliers of oil the need to freeze oil prices. Mr Carter proposes to go to Venezuela, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Iran, among other places.

West puts up new proposals on manoeuvres

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Nov 2

The day Doanai received her notice as a juror in Wayne County, Michigan, she was getting her six-year-old child ready for school. The idea of fulfilling her civic duty was not particularly attractive, since she knew her jury service would last a full month.

She had two young children and the car was needed by her saleswoman husband. The cost of a babysitter and transport would never be covered by the \$15 (£8.30) day juror's allowance. So armed with two very plausible excuses she sought and was granted permission to forego her jury service.

Doanai was in a different position when he received his summons. He was a self-employed bachelor and thought it would make a pleasant change from his somewhat uninspiring job.

By the end of a month of walking round court rooms and attending court hearings for a mere nine days, he was too tired from the late evenings he spent looking after his normal business duties to pay much attention to the proceedings during his final days in court.

The experiences of Doanai and Harry have been shared by the 10 million or so American citizens called for jury service each year. Most say they are bored, frustrated,

and financially worse off because of the traditional jury system, which can entail waiting around, first being summoned to a courtroom and then sitting through the long process of selecting jurors for each trial.

Under the new system—a juror is selected from a master list of registered voters by a computer, which uses a personal history questionnaire to determine whether he or she is acceptable.

On the basis of the replies two lists of qualified jurors are drawn up; one group for regular and the other for steady duties. In the latter case the prospective juror would be telephoned and be told to report for duty on his allotted day.

On their reporting day, the jurors are shown a 15-minute slide programme to acquaint them with the legal process and their role as jurors. They then await assignment.

Those who are selected report to the appropriate courtroom every day until the trial is completed. They then go home. Those who are not accepted are dismissed at the end of the day and that fulfills their jury service for the year.

After six months' experience, the authorities have found that the initial expense of setting it up has been covered, actually saves money.

Leading article, page 15

American experiment with 'one day, one trial' system uses computer to eliminate tedium and saves on costs

Continued from page 1

hours if he hopes to pass a series of entrance examinations during his nine years of compulsory education. Once assured of a place in the right kindergarten, preparatory and high schools, a student can then move on to the escalator to the elite universities and subsequently to employment in leading companies. The places are limited and the competition tough.

The "escalator" begins at the age of seven and continues for 12 years. Many children are forced to sit a test before they are admitted to the cramming schools, which in turn prepare them for entrance examinations of the most prestigious of educational institutions. Besides these cramming centres, students also face a formal six-day school week during their initial struggle for survival.

In one report, sociologists pointed out that children on the outskirts of Tokyo start the day at 4.30 in the morning to attend special private lessons.

At 6 am they join formal school classes. Later in the afternoon they travel across the city to study at private jukus and then after a two-hour journey home in the evening they complete their homework by 11 pm.

The fact that many families are forced to pay prohibitive fees to special private cramming schools places an enormous psychological strain on the average child.

There were also some cases of stone throwing in Kamakura.

School suicides shock Japanese

Continued from page 1

their lives this year have failed to live up to their parents' hopes or have succumbed to the pressure of examinations and the lack of adequate relaxation.

The ages of the victims range between nine year olds in elementary schools and university students aged 22.

The examples are numerous. Two weeks ago the 14-year-old son of a clerk in Osaka threw himself in front of an express train. Police later declared the boy was studying for a senior high school entrance examination.

However, the child had taken his life because he was convinced he would fail the test.

In another case a boy of 13 committed suicide in Tokyo last week because he could not produce an adequate picture during a school art exhibition.

Another elementary student hanged himself because he was not allowed to watch a television programme.

Ironically, the rate of adult suicides has declined in recent years in contrast to the sharp increase in self-inflicted deaths of children and teenagers.

According to the police report—the first study on child suicide published here—338 juveniles killed themselves between March and August this year.

In September, the country witnessed a surge in child suicides—an average of one a day during the month. In most cases the victims hanged themselves or leapt from tall buildings.

Reports at the Ministry of Education show that 46 children between the ages of five and 15 committed suicide in 1975. This figure has risen to 90 in 1976, which itself, but the figure at the end of the present year will overshadow anything previously recorded.

In a chilling comment on child suicides, Mr Kiyoshi Morita, the respected commentator of Japan Times, says:

"One of the main sources of the pressures is the demand that they get good grades or pass the entrance examinations of desirable schools. This is supported by the fact that a relatively large number of child suicides were reported in February and March—the period when entrance examinations are held."

"By the same token, September saw many children committing suicide because they were either unable to produce the required homework during the summer holidays or even though they did produce it, it was not satisfactory in their teachers' eyes."

Reflecting the same view, the daily newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun declared last month:

"Japan's society is competitive and the pressure on children is enormous. Young people to three years old have been brought up to believe that they must succeed in school, work and life. In

Japan the road to worldly success is tied directly to passing entrance examinations to universities. Most students are therefore forced by their parents to attend schools after

vacation in summer. In

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OVERSEAS

Mr Bhutto accuses United States of plotting his downfall

From Hassan Akbar, Islamabad, Nov 2.

Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, at present detained in Lahore jail under martial law, has accused General Zia of overthrowing him last July as part of a plot aided by a foreign power.

In a signed statement submitted in the Supreme Court as a rejoinder to government charges against him, Mr Bhutto avoided naming the foreign power. However, elaborate references in his 45-page statement and his denunciations of Americans when the anti-Bhutto movement was at its peak last summer leave no doubt that he is accusing the United States of plotting against him with the active support of his Army Chief of Staff who has now become head of the Government.

As an indication of General Zia's involvement in such a conspiracy, Mr Bhutto said the Chief of Staff had given a farewell reception for the retiring envoy of an unnamed power. General Zia did in fact, arrange a farewell reception last April for Mr Henry Brocade, the American Ambassador.

Mr Bhutto stated: "I was still in Lahore (in April) when the Foreign Office informed me that despite my strict instructions that no senior official or minister could give receptions and banquets without the prior permission of the Foreign Office, the respondent (General Zia) had not bothered about these standing instructions by

giving a lavish reception to the departing ambassador."

He said that his Interior Secretary had regarded General Zia's reception as a "signal of the coup".

In his lengthy statement, Mr Bhutto suggested that the Americans had first intended to replace him by Air Marshal Asghar Khan, the former Air Force chief who now leads the Tehrik-e-Islam party.

He alleged while the foreign power was building up the air assault as the main leader of the anti-Bhutto alliance, General Zia was being approached simultaneously. Finally it was decided to drop Asghar Khan and put the respondent (General Zia) in the saddle", Mr Bhutto said. He asserted: "This information is authentic."

Two thirds of Mr Bhutto's statement to the Supreme Court referred to his stand against the nation towards the Opposition in Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province. He said he had dealt ruthlessly with the National Awami Party of Mr Abdul Wali Khan because he regarded it as anti-Pakistan. Now, he said, General Zia was trying to appear these anti-state elements in order to win their political support against him.

Our Ankara Correspondent writes: General Zia told a press conference in Ankara before flying on to Libya for a tour of Islamic countries that general elections in Pakistan were unlikely to be held before November, 1978.

Indian press silenced by a power cut

From Richard Wigg, Delhi, Nov 2.

On the night that the 1975 emergency was imposed on India it was decided to silence the Delhi newspapers by a total power cut, a commission headed by Mr Justice Shah was told here today.

Mr Kishan Chand, former lieutenant governor of Delhi, said the decision was taken in the Prime Minister's office with Mrs Gandhi herself in the chair. He could not remember, however, whether the order given him to stop the presses had come from Mrs Gandhi or from Mr Om Mehta, the deputy Home Minister.

When Mr Justice Shah, who is conducting an inquiry into the excesses of the 20-month emergency, asked why he had agreed to carry out such an arbitrary act, Mr Chand replied that he regarded it as a political decision. He had been told it was done for "security" reasons.

The power cuts stopped Delhi morning papers from appearing, thus preventing the news of the mass arrests of opposition politicians reaching the general public. The power cut in the newspaper district remained in force for three days, in order to give the Gandhi Government time to set up full-scale censorship.

Mr Harry D'Penha, the chief censor during the emergency, said he had acted "on superior orders" when he was asked by the judge why court judgments critical of the Government had been forbidden publication.

After some hesitation Mr

D'Penha explained that he was referring to Mr V. C. Shukla, the Information Minister, or to senior civil servants, at his ministry. Mr Justice Shah then challenged him: "Why not be frank and tell all the censorship was all done on the instructions of the minister?"

At previous hearings a detailed picture emerged of how the Government manoeuvred with influential subscribers and trade unions against Ludia's four privately owned and economically vulnerable news agencies.

Mr Shukla denied that Mrs Gandhi had personally ordered the enforced merger of the two existing English language agencies with the two Hindi ones to form Samachar, the state monopoly agency. He also denied that a main aim was to make censorship easier.

But he answered: "Yes" when Mr Justice Shah put it to him that "other methods . . . to induce, persuade or compel" the members of the Cabinet had decided against doing it had quickly brought results.

Three editors of small magazines, which attempted to be critical of the Government even after the big papers had been more or less curbed by censorship also told the commission how quotations from the Gita (a Hindu sacred text), court judgments, and even jokes which the censors did not themselves understand but suspected of criticizing the Government, were deleted and how printing presses refused to handle their copy.

Search by Arabs for joint policy**Troops get trains moving again**

Damascus, Nov 2.—The leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan met in twin sessions today to coordinate Arab Middle East strategy. King Hussein of Jordan arrived in the Syrian capital for talks with President Assad, and President Sadat of Egypt conferred with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

King Hussein planned to fly later to Riyadh to join Mr Sadat and King Khalid. The round of high-level contacts was the latest in a series of Arab efforts to coordinate political and military moves in view of the growing conviction that the chances of success of a Geneva peace conference, if ever convened, would be dim—UPI.

Palestinian leader disowned

Berlin, Nov 2.—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said today that more than 20 months ago it expelled Dr Wadi Haddad, who is reported to have organized last month's hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner to Mogadishu.

Dr Haddad used to head the Front's "foreign operations" section, which staged a series of spectacular hijackings and acts of violence in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Reliable sources say that he is now in charge of a splinter group, which mimicked the hijacking of the Lufthansa airliner. Reuter and UPI.

1,600 arrested in Cairo clean-up

Cairo, Nov 2.—Three thousand armed police, some of them opening fire, raid under world strongholds in Cairo and surrounding areas today and arrested more than 1,000 criminals, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. The raids had been in preparation for a major and followed penetration of the Cairo underworld.

Perry Como damages Burbank, California, Nov 2.—Perry Como, the singer, who is 65, has been awarded \$257,509 (£139,000) for injuries suffered when he fell off a stage while filming a 1971 Christmas show for the NBC television network.

Colombian kidnap Bogota, Nov 2.—Herr Peter Heinrich, aged 41, a West German industrialist, was kidnapped in north-western Colombia by a group calling itself the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Law Report November 2 1977

Court of Appeal

Court

Woman teacher, 61, entitled to sue

Noshman v Barret London term during which he reaches his sixtieth birthday." That was the same for men and women.

In December, 1976, Miss Noshman, a teacher, who at 61 years old had been given a permanent teaching post, gave notice of her resignation, age 60, and was told she was not entitled to receive redundancy pay.

In his lengthy statement, Mr Bhutto suggested that the Americans had first intended to replace him by Air Marshal Asghar Khan, the former Air Force chief who now leads the Tehrik-e-Islam party.

He alleged while the foreign power was building up the air assault as the main leader of the anti-Bhutto alliance, General Zia was being approached simultaneously.

Finally it was decided to drop Asghar Khan and put the respondent (General Zia) in the saddle.", Mr Bhutto said. He asserted:

"This information is authentic. Two thirds of Mr Bhutto's statement to the Supreme Court referred to his stand against the nation towards the Opposition in Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province. He said he had dealt ruthlessly with the National Awami Party of Mr Abdul Wali Khan because he regarded it as anti-Pakistan. Now, he said, General Zia was trying to appear these anti-state elements in order to win their political support against him.

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In such a light a sensible interpretation could be put on the instant provision. The side-heading to paragraph 10(b) was "upper limit" which pointed to one limit. The provision could be interpreted, sensibly, intelligibly and justly, by inserting the words "normal retiring age" before "redundant age" before the second paragraph.

Both the Industrial Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal accepted that the woman was unfair dismissed. Though they thought that there was nothing they could do.

The right not to be unfairly dismissed was subject to the two exceptions in paragraph 10. The second exception, paragraph 10(b), did not give any qualification, giving the phrase "normal retiring age" the meaning of "normal retirement age".

The first question was the meaning of "normal retiring age". It seemed to its Lordship that in a profession or occupation where it was normal for people to retire at a certain age that was the "normal retiring age". Teachers had a contractual retiring age of 65.

The Appeal Tribunal held that the upper age limit for complaints of unfair dismissal was the "normal retiring age or, if there was no normal retiring age, the age at which teachers would have been entitled to a pension or gratuity".

It followed that the "normal retiring age" of a teacher was the age at which teachers would have been entitled to a pension or gratuity by mutual agreement. That age was 65.

It seemed to His Lordship that there was no reason of distinguishing the upper age limit for complaints of unfair dismissal from the normal retiring age or, if there was no normal retiring age, the age at which teachers would have been entitled to a pension or gratuity.

His Lordship wished to reinforce this. It was the voice of the majority of the state educationalists who were by now tired and grammar. That method had been replaced by a new approach.

Whenever the strict interpretation of a statute gave rise to an absurd result, the common sense of the judges could and should use their good sense to remedy it by reading

Book debts transactions assignments

Lloyds and Scottish Finance Ltd v Prentice and Others

Even if transactions under "block discounting" agreement had been carried out by the parties from the outset in a manner involving substantial departures from that prescribed by the agreement, the agreement had remained in effect throughout as defining the contractual relations between the parties, and accordingly the parties had to abide by the absolute assignments of book debts as provided by the agreement.

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which would in practice have been inconvenient, did not produce the effect that in law the terms which by the agreement had been specifically agreed to apply to the transaction were not relevant in defining the parties' legal rights and obligations. The assignments had in law been subject to the terms of the agreement, and they had been absolute assignments of the customers' debts and not merely charges on book debts.

An unfortunate question arose of stamp duty. Each of the block assignments should have been stamped with payment of the appropriate duty under the Stamp Act. Not one had been. Even more regrettably, there had at least in some instances been an "adjustment" of the amounts of money involved in particular assignments so as to result in less stamp duty being payable than the correct amount had been incurred.

The Lordships had accepted an appropriate undertaking by Lloyd's solicitors, but if there should be similar cases hereafter of apparently deliberate disregard of the requirements of the Stamp Act in transactions of the

OVER

Football

Ipswich gain notable win as four go out

Three British clubs retain any interest in the third round of the European club competitions. Liverpool and Aston Villa, as expected, survived but the most notable achievement belonged to Ipswich Town who drew 2-2 in the Canary Islands against Las Palmas to win 4-1 on aggregate. Porto, however, maintained Celtic's record of sending Celts to the Cup. Glasgow Celtic, United, Rangers and Celtic, who all fell by the wayside.

Celtic, who European Cup winners in 1967 and runners-up in 1970, went out of the competition at the hands of SSV Innsbruck, who won 3-0 and 2-0 through to the third round, 4-2 on aggregate.

Celtic, once a feared side in Europe, suffered another indignity when they were sent off 10 minutes from time.

Wals put Innsbruck ahead after only four minutes to wipe out the aggregate lead Celtic held from the first leg. Sterling increased their lead after 21 minutes and, as the score stood 2-0, Oporto scored to take the tie beyond doubt. Celtic, who had been cautioned by Forstinger and Rinker of Innsbruck.

The match was played in Salzburg, where Sterling, a two-game suspension of home cup matches because of crowd trouble, Celtic beat six times in 11 Scottish premier league games this season, conceded only one goal, and in a match played in poor weather.

Bosnian Moshen Gindrich issued a clear warning to the European Cup holders, Liverpool, with a 5-1 defeat of Red Star Belgrade. The West Germans, 3-0 winners over Yugoslavia, a fortnight ago, coasted through 4-0 on aggregate.

They have now scored 12 goals in four matches in Europe this season and stand as the biggest threat to Liverpool, who occupied them in the final round of the European Cup, Simonson. A Danish striker, scored twice to bring his total to five goals in Europe this season. Hennings and Wirkens scored the other with a Red Star effort. Nikolic, belching with an own goal, just scored the lone reply.

Although Koen Keegan scored for SV Hamburg in their Cup Winners' Cup tie against Anderlecht in Brussels, it was not enough to give his side a place in the next round. The match was drawn 1-1, and despite the opening for Anderlecht in the 10th minute and Keegan equalising after 40, and Anderlecht went through 3-2 on aggregate.

League clubs can change kick-off times

League clubs are being allowed to bring forward kick-off times because of the power cuts. "We have not written to clubs but we expect that they are fully aware of the situation in their area."

"Any club that asks for an early kick-off will be allowed to have one," a league spokesman said.

Several sides from the lower divisions have already changed to a 2.30 p.m. start, and the season ends more requests before the weekend.

Leeds United were the first team in the first division to change their game at home to Norwich City, will start an hour earlier, at 2.00.



Murca (left) judges the ball into his own net for United's second goal.

Porto's occasional breakaways were dangerous and the half ended with a Porte goal from a free-kick.

Sensinha intercepted a clearance from Albiston and carried the ball wide before cutting back across the edge of the penalty area. Dearborn, before checking and shooting with Steppen helplessly stranded. There was no knowing the value of that away goal, but it momentarily gagged the crowd.

Ten more minutes of attacking football followed, and the ball moved around the mown grass and then a long, high centre from Hill seemed to be covered by Murca, who had Pearson on his shoulder. But there was nothing safe about that deflection; the ball had known high and Murca nudged it in to his own goal.

On the point of half-time another wild moment of indecision by Murca brought United their second goal and, like the permanent

third goal and Old Trafford to another goalless and boring 90 minutes.

Nicholl smashed a fierce shot past him. That left United with three goals still to get in the second half, but the target was in sight.

Sensinha speckled across the halfway line in pursuit of Ovacião's try to intercept him as he strode towards goal but he avoided them as well as Steppen before knocking the ball over the line.

Still United would not give up, and when Pearson drove the ball towards the blue post the post, the same Pearson drove the ball towards the red post. It was too hard for Murca to control and he lifted his second goal under the Portuguese crossbar.

Prisoners in their own half, Porto made astonishingly difficult passes, and, after half an hour, cleared their own penalty area and losing possession just beyond it.

Their glorious football of a fortnight ago was a crass in the memory and United were sent on the way to a 1-1 draw.

United's second goal was for the heat of United's attacks,

attack, and he forced Fonseca to award a corner off the line.

Six minutes from the end, another crucial lone venture by Sensinha changed the atmosphere.

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Manchester United: A. Steppen,

J. Pearson, N. Buchan, D. McGrath,

D. McNaughton, S. Pearson, D. McEvilly,

Porto: Fonseca, Gabriel, Steppen,

Ovacião, J. Carvalho, D. Oliveira,

Referee: A. Marinho (Portugal).

Liverpool win the tie but make few friends

By John Hennessy

Dresden 2, Liverpool 3

Liverpool survived the second round of the European Cup competition heroically here today. Having won the first leg 5-1 a fortnight ago, they decided that Middlesex defence was an almost way of preventing the team from scoring again in the second scoring time in the second half.

At half-time their tactics had served their purpose, though they had played dangerously enough, but two goals in the last two minutes after the interval suddenly set the game alight.

It might sound far-fetched to suggest that the match was as good as ever after the first 75 minutes, but with the benefit of hindsight, and in the absence of anything extraordinary, what happened was that, during those 10 minutes Middlesex scored 18 points. Connies, who had been forced into three late changes, were deprived of their wing-half, and West, on the wing, and Brealey, at stand-off, had struggled back up the left touch-line and made the score 18-13 at half-time, but their revival ended there.

Connies' loose defence as much as Middlesex's ability to take what was offered characterised the second half.

Ryan made a break for

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SPORT

Cricket

Cricket authorities accused of being dictatorial

By Philip Webster

The cricketing authorities were accused in the High Court yesterday of introducing dictatorial panel provisions to combat the actions of Tony Packer's forthcoming cricket tour.

Mr Andrew Morritt, QC, beginning his final address to the plaintiffs in the Packer case (Mr Packer and three of his players, who are seeking to have the ban on their touring Test and County cricket lifted), said that since May 9 when Mr Packer's proposals became public knowledge the defendants, the International Cricket Conference and the County Cricket Board, had used every weapon at their disposal to fight "the thoroughly unwelcome competition".

There had been references at ICC meetings to "wars not being won by appeasement" and "stealth situations", he said. "In prosecuting this war," Mr Morritt said, "they seem to have come up with something which is plainly dictatorial, penal and an infringement of the liberty of the individual. They did this to persuade players to break their contracts, to prevent those who did so from switching to prevent players who might be tempted to sign for Mr Packer in future."

Mr Morritt said that references during the case by Mr David Insole, chairman of the TCCB, to "autocratic cricket" and by Mr Jack Bailey, secretary of the ICC, who described the ICC and TCCB rules as legislation, indicated their belief that they had an authority and power more appropriate to a sovereign state.

"Mr Bailey made plain the sort of state he had in mind when he referred to his wish to bind players to his system without giving players any choice or control. This sort of system can only properly be described as feudal," he said.

The prosecution of the war, Mr Morritt said, had led the cricketing authorities to infringe common law both with regard to restraint of trade and the law of breach of contract. "We suggest it is now for the court in its traditional role to protect the individual and his property."

Mr Morritt said that the cricket authorities had for some time adopted a monopoly over first-class cricket. Changes had been made in the past nine or 10 years, but too little had been done too late. Players for some years had been disappointed with the underhand way in which they had been treated in what was an arduous life re-

quiring skills, courage and character of a high order. While a monopoly existed players had little alternative; their only choice was to play cricket as it was then organized and end up with it, or do something else.

Mr Morritt said that the idea that Mr Packer was pursuing a vendetta against the Australian Cricket Board of Control when he organized his series should be rejected. His reasons were that the players appeared to want it, the public wanted it and he wanted to make good television. "These are bona fide reasons. No one would invest substantial sums of money in a project such as this if he had not genuinely believed the public would want it and that it would make good television," he said.

Earlier, Mr Michael Kempton, for the defence, sought for the defendants, claimed that the contracts drawn up between Mr Packer and his players were, in law, void.

The contracts were mutually re-

spective. "We submit that the effect of this contract is potentially to sterilize the abilities of the player as a professional cricketer for 18 years, impeding him from signing other contracts whenever that commitment to him to any firm action," he said.

The contract only committed the promoter to certain obligations if and when he armed himself with a sum.

Mr Kempter said that Mr Packer player received a sum of money on signature of his contract, but, he contended, were the promoter not to arrange a tour of matches in England or not require the player to take part in any tour, then the money paid in advance would be recoverable.

What was required to render the agreement valid was the addition of a positive obligation on the part of the promoter, Mr Kempton said that if his submissions were correct and the contracts were void, all allegations that the ICC and TCCB had attempted to induce Packer players to break their contracts or regard them as bound were untrue.

He agreed with Mr Justice Slade that there was no evidence that the cricketers were unwilling to fulfil their contracts or regarded them as bound.

Mr Kempter said that the ICC and TCCB had shown throughout a concern to act lawfully. In no sense did the evidence show that there was any intention to induce players for some years to do away with a binding contract or any recklessness for legal obligations.

... The hearing continues today.

Indians open their tour with runaway victory

Adelaide, Nov 2.—India's Indians won a runaway win over a South Australian country side in a one-day match at Port Lincoln, which opened their tour today.

South Australia, who had won four consecutive games, had to travel 22 miles round the country side for 22 when he took six for 18 in 10 overs. India continued bating after winning by seven wickets to score 264 for the loss of 10 wickets.

The Indian batsmen showed their class against the mediocre country bowling but failed to consolidate a promising start because the country side, which was scoring his run in 107 minutes with eight fours and one six, held the Indians together.

He and Amaranta added 91 for the fifth wicket before the South Australians came through. Amaranta finished with an unbeaten 52 after a laborious two hours dur-

ing which he hit only one boundary.

Kirmani, the wicket keeper, showed himself to be a useful batsman when he scored an aggregate 50 in the team's 100 runs. The aggregate was won by Venkateswaran. India's batsmen looked at ease on the lively wicket in spite of their poor start. Venkateswaran and Amaranta were out to 111, while Venkateswaran and Chauhan added 111 in a long drive and was easily caught.

When they were dismissed they were only one run short of the hundred. The country side, which was scoring his run in 107 minutes with eight fours and one six, held the Indians together.

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NEW BOOKS/TWO



Diana Stone

A Reynolds Stone frieze, showing the scope of his work. Above left: Royal Arms for the Coronation service of George VI. Compare the present royal arms (also a Stone design) on our Court Page, first used on April 23, 1953. Above right: Book label for his sister. Right: Device for the publisher Rupert Hart-Davis, used until recently by the Hart-Davis MacGibbon imprint of Granada Publishing. Far right, top: a typical example of Stone's work, often to be seen in letter-headings. Far right, lower: compare this clock device used on the Leader Page of The Times between 1949 and 1966 with the present version of the clock numerals and scythe handles.

Murder as social history

Victorian Murderesses
By Mary S. Hartman
(Robson Books, £5.25)

The more notorious of Victorian femmes fatales have a peculiar fascination for the connoisseurs of murder, perhaps because of the intriguing contrast between the respectable lives of their clustered and claustrophobic sitting rooms and the fierce exposure of the dock. But the jester of Ms Hartman's book, a lurid Victorian pastiche, is misleading. This is no mere recital of old and familiar horrors but a well-written, carefully researched and penetrating study of 13 of the most infamous of nineteenth-century criminal women, British and French, seen against the legal, social and domestic constraints which drove them to the desperate expedient of murder.

Ms Hartman is Director of Women's Studies at Rutgers in the United States and she perceives her subjects as they are: hardly heroines—in the light of her own academic preoccupation. But this is no woman's lib defence of murder. Ms Hartman neither romanticizes murder nor presents the women as the stereotyped victims of male oppression. In more senses than one they had their weapons and knew how to use them. Given the socially pres-

cribed and idealized code of Victorian womanhood each sex was the victim of the other. The women may, indeed, have been said to have got off lightly. The guilt of none is seriously in question. Yet only six were convicted; five were freed before their full prison sentences were served; and none suffered the death penalty. Ms Hartman's account of the motives for their crimes, the stratagems they employed and the public response to their trials provides a fascinating combination of real-life murder, psychological detection and social history and new and original insights into the minds of the most celebrated murderers of the nineteenth century.

It is both interesting and ironic that they killed not because they rejected the repressive sexual and social mores of the age but because they accepted them. They were conformists, not rebels. They shot, poisoned and stabbed, not in the cause of liberty, feminine enfranchisement or self-fulfilment, but of respectability. Madeleine Smith may have had the audacity to indulge her sexual needs in an age when even to acknowledge female sexuality, at least in an unmarried girl, was a heresy against the purity of womanhood, but she took good care

to enjoy herself in secret—that, given the suffocating dullness of middle-class life in Glasgow, must have been half the fun. She was, after all, aware as was her dear Mimi of the relative matrimonial claims of a prosperous William Minnoch and a penniless Emile L'Angelier. So, since L'Angelier was disobliging as not to take himself off in favour of a better prospect for his beloved Mimi, he was handed a mug of hot chocolate liberally laced with arsenic to teach him to behave like a gentleman. It was in the cause of respectability and snobbery that Madame Lemoine killed the newborn son of her daughter Angelina, who had been the mistress of her mother's coachman. It was not uncommon for upper-class young men to receive their sexual initiation from a servant; that a well-born young woman should do so was unthinkable. This, in the words of Jane Austen, undid the stain of illegitimacy unbleached by nobility or wealth. The unfortunate infant would have had a better chance of survival had he been the bastard of an aristocrat.

Charles Bravo, too, was murdered because of the imperatives of bourgeois social respectability. Florence Bravo had accepted him because, her

wealth notwithstanding, public reputation depended on a break with her old lover, Dr Guly, and the acquisition of a suitable husband. When faced with the prospect of a life-time of his less than agreeable company, and the certainty of annual, and painful, miscarriages she could see only one way out of her predicament.

For a desperate and ruthless woman, murder was only too often the nineteenth-century equivalent of the contraceptive pill, the abortionist or the divorce court. These 13 women were bunglers. There must have been many others who managed more efficiently.

All the women were accomplished liars. The adjective is appropriate since, given their circumstances, deceit was a necessary survival technique. What is surprising is the credulity of their male judges and juries, only explainable, perhaps, by Ms Hartman's theory that the new institutionalizing of separate sexual spheres that the new institutionalizing of separate sexual spheres helped to make the female world a mysterious and alien place for the men who visited there. The respectable middle class women who flocked to notorious murder trials in numbers which the press openly deplored—the potent mixture of murder and adultery was a particular public attraction—must have watched

the gullibility of the men with fascinated incredulity. It is possible that the accused themselves believed their own lies. They may have been amateurs at murder, but they were highly adept in the feminine art of romantic fabrication.

It is fashionable to indulge our self-righteous horror at the sexual and domestic hypocrisies of the Victorians. One suspects that our own hypocrisies, being on a measly scale and unredeemed by their energy, optimism and creativity, provoke a certain envy. The proportion of happy marriages and loving parents is probably much the same in any age, and, whatever the currently fashionable tenet of sexual equality men and women can easily suit themselves in this most private of relationships.

Happiness, after all, is less well documented than misery. But—undoubtedly, Victorian women, particularly those of the emerging middle class, were subjected to frustrations, boredom, tensions in domestic relationships, and the pressures of social change which, for some of the more vulnerable, proved intolerable. It was the tragedy of these thirteen women—and even more the tragedy of their victims—that the way out for them was so desperate, bloody and ultimately self-defeating.

P. D. James

Good shepherd

Scenes from a Clerical Life: an autobiography by Alec Vidler (Collins, £4.50)

Although Alec Vidler is undeniably one of the most admirable and well-known C of E clergymen of our century, his autobiography might have been told more effectively as "Scenes from a Cloistered Life". Admittedly, he spent his first decade as a parson in a Tyneside slum and a Birmingham artisan parish, in that far-off heyday of the Anglo-Catholic Movement, when young Oxbridge priests adored mean streets in cassock and biretta, and did wonderful work.

But from the start Alec Vidler refused the isolation of what is usually "clerical life". He sought a community of like-minded priests with whom to share a rule of dedicated discipline, the cloister, and found it in the Oratory of the Good Shepherd at Cambridge, whose Warden was Wifred Knox. Henceforward, the pattern of Vidler's life, wherever it took him, was in a community, more that of a parochial cleric. For that reason his especially gifts of mind and spiritual wisdom were available to be used to the full, at the centre of the theological eddies and currents of thought which have carried the Church's intellectuals to and fro throughout the war years and the succeeding decades.

His lot was to be in pleasant places, as Warden of St Deiniol's Library at Hawarden, then Canon of St George's, Windsor, and lastly Dean of King's, Cambridge. From these bases he practised (in his own metaphor) "theological midwifery", ie, assisted in the bringing into existence groups of thinkers and creative people, and in the promulgation of their ideas in books and papers, while he himself also put out books of his own which won wide interest. He was, in fact, during those critical years, an unusually needed link in his influence as convenor, catalyst, writer and lecturer within that province of Christian thinking which was prodigious. For 27 years he edited *Theology* and played a considerable part in the work of *The Christian News-Letter* and its successor *Frontier*.

What sort of man is he? He lives in Rye in retirement in the house where he was born, a few miles from his life-long friends, Malcolm and Kitty Muggeridge. He is also a "very" man, as every page of this book reveals. In his youth he was chided for a manner of portentous solemnity, which he hopes he lost. Above all, a man of God with a great gift for making many friends, and few, if any, enemies.

Joseph McCulloch

Reviews next week include Michael Ratcliffe on Angus Wilson's *The Strange Ride of Rudyard Kipling*; Paul Barker on the Cromwell series; Humphrey Berkely on *A Prince Missing*; Alan Alda on *Primate* by Harold Wilson; H. R. F. Keating on Agatha Christie's autobiography.

Her own woman

The Passionate Shepherdess:
Aphra Behn, 1640-1689
By Maureen Duffy
(Cape, £7.50)

A Victorian historian once accused the biographer of a Saxon saint of telling his readers "all, and rather more than all, that is known" about his subject. The thought must have occurred to Maureen Duffy, working on the biography of Mrs Aphra Behn, the seventeenth-century author—the first professional woman writer in this country—a fairly full account of the known facts about whom could sit happily on one side of a postcard.

Searching (and her tone occasionally seems to betray a certain amount of desperation) for straw with which to run up a few more bricks than those used by earlier biographers such as George Woodcock, Ms Duffy has done rather spectacularly well, partly by sheer dismissive of the taboos of her time. (She was a forthright Tory, incidentally, like almost all seventeenth-century women writers. Where were the Puritan and Whig women?)

Mrs Behn wrote of sex with such vigour that she was thoroughly condemned for it even in Restoration England ("from a woman it was unnatural"), and her plays sank from sight for two centuries. She disapproved of slavery (having glimpsed it in Surinam, the island in Dutch Guinea ceded to the Netherlands in 1667, not long after her visit there), and in *Oroonoko* wrote not only one of the first admirable novels in English literature, but one of the first anti-slavery tracts.

Her writing is what makes it important that Aphra Behn should be remembered, and it is as a celebration of that writing that the present book must be most enthusiastically welcomed. Whether *Oroonoko* is "a masterpiece" (as Ms Duffy believes) it is surprising that it is not in print. Of her plays only *The Rover* is available (when William Mountford played him, Queen Mary remarked that it was dangerous to see him, he made vice so alluring). *The Lucky Chance* is at least as good, and one of our national companies could do far worse than look in Mrs Behn's direction.

Derek Parker

Reclassifications for trend setters

The *Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought*, Edited by Alan Bullock and Oliver Stallybrass (Fontana, £3.95; Collins, £7.50)

This, I should say, is a very smart piece of publishing business. Which of us, while browsing through, say, *The Times Literary Supplement*, has not been struck by a long, difficult, slightly familiar, plainly modish word, with strong academic overtones and hints of a newish "discipline", but of whose meaning we are not precisely sure, or rather—to be frank—are totally ignorant?

This was what happened to Lord Bullock—rather a treasy word himself, come to think of it—when he was on holiday, and baffled by "hermeneutics". He thereupon got the idea, more or less fully formed (he says, for this dictionary of modern thought, "preferably comprehensive enough to take with one even on holiday"). Obviously, the right publishers to go to were Collins-Fontana: for the Fontana Modern Masters series, slim, cheap, brilliantly conceived and edited, bright and up to date as yesterday's colour supplement, has already enabled hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of fairly educated and moderately intelligent people to profess an easy familiarity with such key modern opinion-shifters as Chomsky, Levi-Strauss, Lukacs, Laing, Marcuse, Reich and so forth.

The *Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought* can be seen as a complement to the biographical series. It deals, as a rule very briefly, with such words and concepts as binary system, extrapolation, deep structure, historicism, monads, continuum, entropy and enzymes. If you know exactly what these eight terms, taken at random mean, then you have no need of this book. If, on the other hand, you feel you ought to know and don't, then a modest investment may be called for.

One must not expect too much. The dictionary does not so much increase knowledge as protect people from the social consequences of their ignorance (though, for the great majority, including brief bibliographies, for more comprehensive entries). In the attempt to cram an enormous amount into less than 700 pages, it sometimes slips into a statement of the obvious; or, alternatively, into unenlightening academic jargon. My eye, for instance, fell on "grammar". Not, some might imagine, a term necessarily associated with "modern thought", but even I am fly enough to know it is part of the very fashionable subject of linguistics. So here we have Professor David Crystal, Professor of Linguistic Science, University of Reading, informing us that grammar is:

A central CONCEPT in contemporary LINGUISTICS, traditionally referring to an independent LEVEL of linguistic organization in which words, or their components (MORPHEMES), are brought together in the formation of DISCOURSE (See MORPHOLOGY; SYNTAX). See also CASE GRAMMAR; SCALE-AND-CATEGORY GRAMMAR; SYSTEMIC GRAMMAR; TAGMATIC GRAMMAR; TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR.

Also, so there's a grammar is, is it? And how that old gentleman of Molére's would have been surprised to discover, with such words

and concepts as binary system, extrapolation, deep structure, historicism, monads, continuum, entropy and enzymes. If you know exactly what these eight terms, taken at random mean, then you have no need of this dictionary. Through the dictionary without becoming very much wiser or clever, or even convinced that grammar as defined by "modern thought" is a significantly different or more useful term than the ordinary grammar developed to help people to write English. However, Professor Crystal at least puts me on to F. R. Palmer's *Grammar* (Penguin, 1971), which may do the trick if I ever get round to it.

Much the same criticism might apply to geography, which is now dressed up in very gaudy academic garments, especially since it was taken up by the environmentalists, ecologists and other pseudo-scientific trend setters. It makes great play with such terms as URBANISATION, GEOGRAPHICAL DETERMINISM, CENTRAL PLACES, DIFFUSION, GEOGRAPHY and the use of mathematical MODELS. We are told by Jean Gottmann, Professor of Geography at Oxford, that "The role of psychological factors has been enhanced by growing interest in the decision making for location and environmental managements (a new field called perception geography is being developed)...".

Again, in the field of history, we learn about such terms as ENTHOGENESIS, CONOGRAPHY, PSYCHOHISTORY and that invention of old Nannie's, today more fashionable than ever, called PRO-

Paul Johnson

Unanimous acclaim for ALISTAIR HORNE A SAVAGE WAR —OF PEACE— ALGERIA 1954-1962

"This awesome and superlative piece of history"

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Ronald Butt

The significant rise of Mr Healey must put him top of the succession stakes

The miner's rejection of the offered productivity deal, and the heightened challenge of their £135 a week pay claim, do not only threaten the Government's economic and pay strategy just when its future seemed brighter.

The result of the ballot also provides a certain ironical justification for Mr Healey's resistance to revaluing sterling, to which he agreed with such obvious reluctance.

For the Chancellor's misgivings about a deader pound were not only because of the effect this might have on export competitiveness, or on account of its possibly deflationary implications.

Until very recently, one of Mr Healey's chief reasons for holding the pound down was his fear that the Government's failure to get a phase three incomes policy might have wages consequences so damaging to overseas confidence as to lead to renewed pressures on the pound. If this were to happen (so the argument ran), a stronger pound would be in a safer position than one that had been allowed to go up.

Well, we now have the danger of the complete collapse of the remnants of the Government's pay policy unless it stands firm (with what industrial consequences is anyone's guess at this stage) and, unless the miners' leaders and the TUC can help it to fiddle a way out of this corner.

All this throws a new and a more kindly light on the failure of the Chancellor to emerge from a recent prevent revaluation—though this does not mean that on more general grounds his hesitation about the sterilising rate could any longer be justified. It plainly could not.

Everything now turns on the Government's firmness. Last week, after his Budget statement, Mr Healey was exhorting by a left-wing Labour backbencher, Mr Dennis

Skinner, to "keep its nose out" of free collective bargaining and, if it must use sanctions, to keep them to private firms. Mr Healey's reply was forthright.

"The Government", he said, "are determined to use their influence in the public sector as an employer, and in many cases as paymaster" as well as in the private sector where it would, if necessary, withhold discriminatory grants and subsidies. It is this determination in the public sector that is now to be tested, and it remains to be seen whether the test will be destruction.

These difficulties have suddenly erupted at the moment when Mr Callaghan seems about to change his mind, and just as Mr Healey had gained a new authority in Parliament, which was likely to be of profound significance for the political future.

The moment most revealing of the Government's new self-confidence came during the question time which followed Mr Healey's Budget statement last week when the shubulent Mr Pardoe sprang to his feet to give his "unreserved welcome" to the Chancellor's announcements.

Mr Pardoe thought the statement "excellent" and would be a "marked sign of regret in the Conservative Opposition", and his special joy was reserved for the "astonishing transformation" in the attitude of Whitehall towards the problems of small business in the last six months.

For it is, of course, part of the Liberals' claim to influence that the Government's new virtue in this matter (expressed through the activities of Mr Harold Lever) is due largely to them.

Mr Healey's response was to train on the hapless Mr Pardoe the bludgeoning, remorseless heavy-

weight sarcasm which is part of his stock-in-trade. The Chancellor's broadside resembled nothing so much as a battleship blazing all its guns at a rowing boat.

If anything were needed, he observed, "to complete my satisfaction over the improvement of the nation's economy, it is the knowledge on which I have now securely rest, that I have justified the trust of the hon member for Cornwall North". With his fixed cheeky-chappy grin too firmly in place, Mr Pardoe looked as though he knew quite well what had hit him.

The instinct is to wait until autumn

The hinge for the Chancellor's sarcasm was, of course, the little word "now". For there had been no serious doubt, ever since the Lib-Lab pact was sealed, that the Liberals would keep the Government where it is, and no reassurance of confidence from Mr Pardoe was needed to tell Mr Healey that he had nothing to fear from the Liberals in the past, and has almost nothing to fear from them for the future.

Mr Callaghan's instinct is probably to wait until the autumn of 1978 (or even conceivably until 1979) but if the Liberals forced an election next spring before the signs of inflation re-emerged, that would suit him almost as well. For Mr Steel would then have given him an alibi for the earlier date.

Today, however, the nerve with which he has stood up to the test of

of course, if an early election were precipitated by the collapse of the Government's economic policy over time, that would be quite a different matter. But this risk apart, ministers are conscious of the strength of their own hand, and Mr Healey's remark that Mr Pardoe was evidence of this. Yet there was more still to be read from the Chancellor's performance last week when, dealing with a flow of questions, he displayed an authority in the Commons that must be reckoned of some political significance.

Mr Healey's ability to master departmental nuts and bolts in the manner of a highly politicized senior civil servant is not new. He excelled at this during his six-year stay at the Ministry of Defence: he has now clearly reached the same sort of expertise at the Treasury. He has a machine mind and an appetite for work and detail which enable him to think very fast on his feet.

His own and his department's plain miscalculation in resisting the revaluation of sterling to which he was then forced so suddenly does not seriously diminish his grasp of what he is doing, for it was at least based on a clear, intelligible earlier view of the situation to which I have already referred.

What is new in the last year is Mr Healey's authority in the House of Commons and that could be of real significance in terms of the eventual succession to the Labour leadership. After his poor showing in the post-Wilson leadership contest, and his confrontation with the Labour conference when he put the basic interest rate up to 15 per cent last year, few would have given much credence to Mr Healey's chances of being the next leader of his party.

Today, however, the nerve with

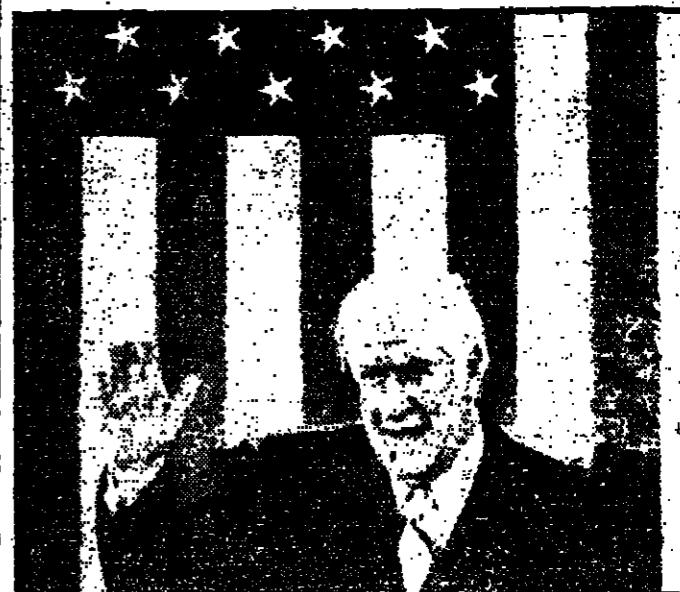
the past 12 months and the success, so far, of his policies put a different complexion on things. What is more, serious competition has faded away.

Mr Foot is no longer in it; Mrs Williams has failed to emerge as the leader of any significant section of the party and Mr Callaghan has, for the time being, tamed Mr Benn in a way Harold Wilson found impossible. Today, after Mr Callaghan, there is only Mr Healey.

The question now is what Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey will do with their success so far, and whether a wages explosion will undermine them before they reach the election. And if they were to reach the election and win, what would they do with a new lease of power once they had waved the Liberals goodbye?

There are people in the City now who seem contented to have a Labour Government implementing sound financial and economic policies which they fear would be politically unacceptable from the Tories, and there are ordinary citizens who feel the same. Yet as the election draws nearer, there will be a rising incentive for the electorate to look beyond polling day to see what sort of government Mr Callaghan will think, if he wins, be able to offer, and what the next phase of Labour's socialism will really amount to.

It is an old maxim that oppositions do not win elections; governments lose them. At the moment the polls suggest that the present Opposition may not find it easy to win. But this does not mean that it is too late for the Government. Mr Healey's skill notwithstanding, to lose it, and it is probably true to say that his succession to the leadership depends on Mr Callaghan's being able to hand it to him in power. In Opposition, it would be quite another matter.



Mr Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives: a man the President has learnt not to offend.

Is President Carter wising up to the ways of Washington?

Washington

The word around Washington is that Jimmy Carter is the best-qualified President since Herbert Hoover. After all, Mr Carter, like Mr Roosevelt, is an engineer, a businessman, an intellectual, an experienced administrator, a man who knows all the questions and thinks he knows all the answers.

Another comparison is with John F. Kennedy. The two Presidents had terrible relations with Congress and with the business community, and Kennedy's foreign policy was not notably successful until near the end, when he achieved the Test Ban Treaty.

Mr Carter has been President now for nine months, and is in the midst of a period of sharp criticism. Since the Lance affair came into the open last August, he has done nothing right and the ungrateful critics are gleefully talking about a one-term presidency.

It is clearly much too early to write off Jimmy Carter. Last week the House of Representatives passed a Bill re-financing the social security system, and the Senate has followed suit and is at last making some progress on the Energy Bill. There are signs that the President is bowing to criticism of his way of doing things and, above all, the vast powers of the presidency, and its ability to sway events, remain intact.

The central criticism of the Carter presidency is that the President is too suspicious of strangers, that he is too sure of his own abilities and that therefore he tries to do everything himself. The best measure that his Salt proposals were equitable to both sides and was disagreed when the Russians disagreed.

He is equally astonished that Israels and their friends here do not agree with his proposals for the Middle East. He thinks the proposals are logical, fair, that they guarantee peace for everyone and are thoroughly consistent with the highest principles. The Israels do not like them one bit. Fortunately Mr Carter has never believed his Salt proposals were equitable to both sides and was disagreed when the Russians disagreed.

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NORTHERN IRELAND

a Special Report

After more than eight almost continuous years of terrorism, the political problems of Northern Ireland remain stubbornly unsolved. But in recent months a new optimism has been discernible in the tone of ministerial speeches and less of the normal despondency and tension has been visible among ordinary citizens.

This is largely the result of a weakening in the Provisional IRA and a marked reduction in the violent activities of the scale or more of Protestant paramilitary groups.

Official statistics show that in the first nine months of this year, 100 people met violent deaths compared with 232 during the same period last year.

The detailed records of terrorist violence accurately reflect the more relaxed atmosphere now to be encountered at most levels of Northern Ireland society. The hopefulness is cautious in the extreme, heavily hedged about with clauses and conditions, but it is there all the same.

The only violent activity on the increase is "knee-capping". This savage form of punishment is practised by extremists on both sides of the sectarian divide. But internal discipline within the IRA are regarded by detainees as the main reason why this year's total already exceeds 100—with many of the victims maimed for life.

For most of the 1,500,000 inhabitants of the province, the improvement has brought more immediate and tangible benefits than those which would arise from a sudden bout of political progress. The lack of amenities still poses great problems and magnifies the other hardships imposed by guerrilla warfare, but in recent months there has been evidence that the drop in killing has encouraged more ordinary social activity.

Unfortunately, in most areas this is restricted within one or other of the two religious communities, with only the professional classes bridging the tragic gulf between "Catholic and Protestant on any regular basis."

From the Government's point of view, two events during the year are singled out for contributing most to the reduction in violence—which was most noticeable in August, traditionally the bloodiest month in Northern Ireland.

The first was the defeat of the loyalist strike last

May, leading to humiliation for its extremist leaders, and a considerable boost for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, a five thousand strong force which has been repeatedly accused of showing partiality against Catholics. The continuing battle to win its acceptance in the republican areas remains one of the Cabinet's main goals.

The second, balancing factor was the failure of the Provisional IRA to live up to its extravagant threats to wreck the Queen's Silver Jubilee trip to the most violent corner of her realm. After issuing inflammatory warnings about their plans to make the visit "a day to remember", the Provos found themselves unable to inflame community differences. The one new political idea which has emerged over the past 12 months has been the so-called Molyneux plan, men who are pressing for the eight year campaign of violence to be abandoned.

Mr Roy Mason, the Secretary of State, was quick to make capital from both events. An ex-minister who once headed the Cabinet's most testing nests, Mr Mason has managed to convince Protestants that Britain is not planning a sudden withdrawal. This was a considerable achievement, helped by a blunt, no-nonsense approach which contrasted sharply with the more ambivalent posture of his immediate predecessor, Mr Merlyn Rees.

On arriving at Stormont in September 1976 Mr Mason pledged himself to improve the workings of direct rule and to avoid plunging into what he called disastrously Ulster's "political whirlpool". To the surprise of several local politicians, and the more restrained disarray of both the Conservative Party and the new Dublin Government, it proved a promise which was largely adhered to.

Talks with Roman Catholic and Protestant leaders did eventually take place, and more are now planned, but it is generally accepted that a matter of a few years."

Christopher Walker

by Ronald Kershaw

It is a little over a year ago that Mr Roy Mason, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in the absence of any marked progress towards a solution to the province's problems, launched an attack on the economic ills of the region. His reasoning was that poverty, unemployment and frustration at the hopelessness of the future provided a breeding ground for violence.

The creation of a better quality of life, he argued, would gradually bring about the realization that life was worth living and passive acceptance of terrorism would turn to revulsion at the killings and bombings.

The great majority of people in Northern Ireland would be moved to cooperate actively in the elimination of the gangster.

To fight to keep what you have implies you must have something in the first place and work for it. And surely you must have jobs.

Accordingly, the administration launched a high-powered campaign to attract new investment, to reduce what Mr Mason has called the "unemployment mountain" and generally create a worthwhile future.

Government ministers and officials are now in the middle of their drive to create and extend industry and nobody is more aware than they of the magnitude of the task. The mountain of unemployment is now running at 11.6 per cent—nearly twice as high as in Britain. Last year more than 75 companies closed down their Northern Ireland operations.

Production costs have risen faster than in Britain and the political problems have contributed, though not significantly, to the decline in jobs.

Mr George Quigley, who last month accompanied Mr Mason on an investment promotion tour of the United States, in a searching report on Northern Ireland's economy published last November, forecast that by 1980 a further 25,000 jobs would be lost to the pro-

vince. Nobody has yet found reason to doubt his judgment so the task facing the Northern Ireland administration is to attract sufficient industry, first to stop the decline then to create new jobs.

To aid this process, Mr Mason has appointed a Northern Ireland Economic Council under the chairmanship of Professor C. F. Carter, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University and formerly Professor of Applied Economics at Queen's University, Belfast.

Unlike trade missions which tend to show results quickly in terms of orders, investment-seeking missions such as the American tours by Mr Mason and Mr Don Concanon, Deputy Secretary of State, tend to take time to pay off.

A bonus was the announcement by Du Pont, America's biggest chemical company in

the middle of Mr Mason's October tour, that it intended going ahead with a £29m modernization programme at its neoprene synthetic rubber plant at Maydown, Londonderry.

Du Pont officials made it clear that without the modernization 450 jobs at the existing plant would be lost. As a result there may be a slight increase in jobs. For two years 800 to 1,000 construction workers will be employed on the plant. The only casualty will be the neighbouring British Oxygen Company factory which has been supplying the neoprene plant with acetylene. The modernized Du Pont plant will be based on a new process using cheaper raw materials but about 250 BOC people will be laid off unless alternative work can be found.

Northern Ireland's investment record in the past year is impressive. The Ford Motor Company has provided 400 jobs in a £10m expansion scheme; Berkshire International, a London textile firm, 300 jobs in a £1,600,000 investment; Synthetic Industries Incorporated, at Newry, 170 jobs with £5m investment; and Gallagher's has invested £8m. The Synthetic Industries project was the first United States new investment in Northern Ireland

since 1969 but the emphasis is on "new". There has been American investment in the province of about £120m by 32 companies up to May 1976 and more recent investment decisions involve £58m and 1,200 new jobs.

Even so, at the first meeting of the new economic

and the long-term trend remains one of expansion". He explained that the total working was 493,000, a marginal reduction since 1974 but an increase of 10 per cent over 1960.

Even so, he made it clear that the task of the council

was to assist the Government in holding on to existing jobs and giving aid to companies in short to medium-term difficulties. The Government, he said, wanted to make sure that the value of Northern Ireland's one real natural resource—man-power—was enhanced by a rising level of skills and to establish a sound basis for competitive industry.

Mr Mason went to some pains to emphasize that the marginal increase in unemployment had not been caused by a loss of jobs but by an increase in people coming on to the labour market. It was important that outside investors be aware of this, he said.

Probably the most significant contribution to the fight for industry was the £1,000m economic package announced by the Secretary of State at the beginning of August, of which the new council was part. The essence of the new deal included writing off £250m of the £289m debt of the Northern Ireland Electricity Service to the Government Loan Fund, and over the next five years providing £100m in grants to the electricity service. Electricity charges to Northern Ireland consumers were anything between 30 per cent and 70 per cent greater than in Britain. Direct subsidies have been ruled out of electricity charges but there is little doubt that the measures will mean significant price reductions for industrial and commercial users at least.

The package contained an increase from 40 per cent to 50 per cent of the maximum rate of government grants for industry setting up in areas of high unemployment where unemployment rates as high as 30 per cent occur. In areas not qualifying for maximum rates where grants are proportionately lower, they too have been raised by 10 per cent.

A grant aid scheme to encourage research and development of new processes and products with an upper limit of £250,000 for each project will, it is hoped, bring new technology. Rent abatement schemes for companies using government-built premises have been extended from three years to five years.

The construction industry

is to be given a £2,750,000 investment boost to counter rising unemployment. In total about £100m this year and £600m over the following five years will be reserved for expansion and capital grants which, with

the electricity bonus, makes

should also be mentioned

that between 1970 and 1976

productivity in manufacturing industries increased by 32

per cent in Northern Ire-

land

figure which leaves

the rest of the United King-

dom way behind. Right or

wrong morally, there are

said to be those who sub-

scribe to the theory that

nine men chasing 10 jobs is

an ideal situation to produce

the best from a workforce.

If there are, Northern Ire-

land would appear to be the

place for them.

Disaster could easily have

overaken the province

earlier this year when

"loyalist" extremists called

for an all-out strike in sup-

port of a demand for firmer

measures against the Pro-

visional IRA and an end to

direct rule from West-

minster.

The wholehearted rejection

by the majority of trade

unionists may well, in hind-

sight, be regarded as the

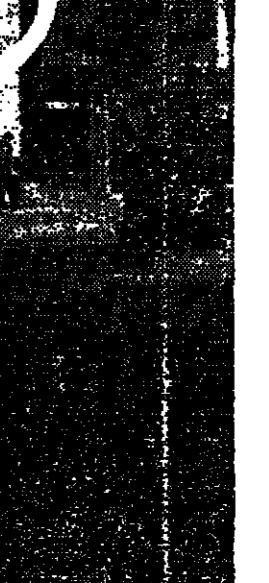
turning point in the economy

of the province. It was led

by about 9,000 workers at

the Belfast shipyard of Har-

land and Wolff, almost the



Northern Bank

Established 153 years ago in Northern Ireland, Northern Bank to-day is the largest bank serving the financial needs of the Province. Through a network of almost 200 branches our managers have their fingers on the pulse of every major town, shopping centre and industrial development area. Collated by our experts at Head Office, this data can provide you, our customer, with whatever information you may require on any specific Market area. Should this relate to finance, availability of labour or housing, the Northern can provide the answer.

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Call from the minister: hard facts will win over myths



The attractions of Northern Ireland as a base for manufacturing industry are now so great that investors both in Britain and overseas owe it to themselves and their shareholders to examine them in detail before coming to a decision on the location of new outlets.

That is the message my ministers and I are seeking to carry around the world as we continue the drive to place the Northern Ireland economy on a much sounder footing.

It is a message some cynics may say is rather optimistic, bearing in mind our problems of the past few years. I take a more positive view, as I did on my

recent tour of North America.

I do so because industrialists decide for investment or against it on the basis of hard facts and figures and it is in these rather than in myths and half-truths that we in Northern Ireland like to deal.

We can point to the fact

that since the Second World War more than 300 companies from Britain and overseas, employing more than 50,000 people, have been attracted to the province and that their story has been one of remarkable success. Thirty of these are American companies, which represent some £400m of investment at 1976 prices. They have on their payroll 18,000 workers.

We can point to the fact that in recent times many of these companies have increased substantially their investments in the province. They have shown their confidence in Northern Ireland by increasing their stake in the past year to the tune of £29m, and in recent weeks we have been given a further tremendous boost by the decision of the Du Pont company to invest £25m on modernizing its plant in Londonderry.

We can point to our excellent record of economic activity. Since 1969 our manufacturing output has risen by 14 per cent, compared with the overall figure for the United Kingdom of 4 per cent. In the same period our productivity rose by 37 per cent as against 30 per cent in the

United Kingdom as a whole. And on the industrial relations front Northern Ireland's record since 1969 has been better than that of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

In addition to a first-rate industrial track record we can offer potential investors a package of inducements to set up in the province which can hold its own with those offered by industrial areas anywhere. An industrialist setting up in one of our areas of high unemployment can now receive tax-free grants of 50 per cent on his building and machinery costs.

Grants are but one element in a vast package which seeks to smooth the way for the industrialist.

If, for example, a customer needs labour training of a particular sort we can meet his precise needs. If he requires a factory we can provide it either off the peg or tailored to his requirements. Government departments take pride in the flexibility of our industrial development programme. It can be used in a host of ways to get a new factory quickly and efficiently into production.

The picture of Northern Ireland that has gone around the world in recent years is one of a place in shambles. Those who visit the province know that to be a totally false picture. Throughout the troubles we have lost only 824 manufacturing jobs through the closure of companies as a direct result of terrorist action. There is

no denying that Northern Ireland faces major political problems, but I wish to sound economic and industrial structure. An unemployment rate of 11.6 per cent is not to be tolerated.

We have geared ourselves to move forward very quickly when the economic situation improves, but I wish to sound economic and industrial structure. An unemployment rate of 11.6 per cent is not to be tolerated.

There is growing in Northern Ireland now a new feeling of confidence. The upswing in America and elsewhere gains full momentum. The past year has brought many advances in our drive to establish a peaceful and viable future for Northern Ireland.

I am very hopeful that as our image abroad improves and as our true value as a base for profitable investment emerges the coming year will see us take much greater strides along the road of progress.

Roy Mason

Ill wind has promoted growth

by Robert Rodwell

It is no argument for a continuation of the unrest but peace tomorrow in Northern Ireland would put a substantial number of people out of work. "Security" in the widest sense has been one of the province's few growth industries in this decade.

The lifting of the threat coupled with the confidence to cease forthwith the tedious and largely ineffective trisking of stopped and other people about their daily public lives would result in several thousand people losing their livelihoods.

The civilian security "industry" is comprised of three main sectors—security guards and body searchers employed directly by industrial and commercial firms; the uniformed Civilian Search Unit which is an auxiliary of the Northern Ireland Police Authority and private security companies.

In addition to these there has also been a marked growth in the number of agencies selling, installing and servicing various anti-intruder and fire alarm systems, closed-circuit television surveillance and fireproof safes.

Apart from the wholly civilian sectors of security there are two others in which thousands of civilians participate part-time and supplement their income from other jobs—the 4,500-strong Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve and the 2,800-strong Ulster Defence Regiment, of which 6,000 members are part-timers. The RUCR would be nothing like as large if political and civil unrest did not exist and the UDR would not exist at all. Adding all these sectors together, at least 20,000 civilians are seen to earn their living either wholly or

partly from some aspect of security.

The Government pays grants towards the employment of several thousand security officers in addition to the staff it employs directly in the Civilian Search Unit, the RUC Reserve and the UDR. Manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, hoteliers and other service industries employing 10 or more people can apply for Department of Commerce grants towards the wages of their security staff.

Now costing about £4.5m a year, the grant scheme covers 3,000 security officers directly employed by about 1,300 firms. Operating since 1972, the grants were increased in June in step with inflation.

Eligible applicants receive 75 per cent of the wages of each security officer up to a maximum of £1,550 a year, or the rates of one security officer for every 100 or 100 employees up to a maximum of five. Extra security staff above this scale command a grant of £1,150 a person a year.

Government spokesmen say that grants are paid only for "approved" staff and applications have to be certified by the RUC's crime prevention officers, through whom some training is available.

For all that, the impression carried away by most people who have experienced the dreary frustration of shopping in the city centre of Belfast or Derry is that many shopkeepers, friskers are, in fact, bored pensioners or housewives doing a spare-time job and their effectiveness in preventing the planting of small incendiary bombs—the main threat to commerce!—is almost nil.

Because of recently increased firebomb threat, the Commerce Department has recently split its security

grant scheme into separate entities for some enterprises at particular risk, such as department stores which have both a daytime security requirement on the doors, and a night-patrol fire-watching need. Separate grants are now available for night-watchers but unlike stores, offices and warehouses, places of entertainment, surprisingly, do not qualify for grant.

This omission has been spotlighted in recent weeks by the overnight fire-bomb destruction or damage of several of Ulster's remaining cinemas including the largest, the ABC in the centre of Belfast.

The CSU's 460 uniformed men and women man a day-and-night perimeter around the main shopping centres of Belfast and Derry, frisking shoppers and commuters and searching their bags at permanent checkpoints and searching the few vehicles which, on special permits, are allowed inside the high-security zone. CSU staff also search incoming cargoes at the docks and the entire force is said to relieve soldiers and police of search duties, so permitting their use in more active anti-terrorist roles.

If the CSU city centre searches have ever found anything it has escaped public record and the entire security structure in central Belfast is under heavy fire from traders led by the Chamber of Trade president, Mr Gordon Smyth, a prominent Belfast retailer.

He describes the heavy security presence, including

security presence, including the Army's heavily fortified battalion headquarters, and the main threat to commerce!—is almost nil. Because of recently increased firebomb threat, the Commerce Department has recently split its security

supporting the virtual "pedestrianization" of the city centre—which is desirable for environmental reasons anyway—and vehicle searches as effective counter-measures to the car bomb, Mr Smyth wants the pedestrian checkpoints and shop-door searches to be dropped as useless. His views are gaining increasing support with the realization that everything necessary to make a small incendiary time-bomb can be purchased in one store and assembled in the nearest lavatory.

Eight years of violence has led to rapid growth in private security companies and 18 are listed in Ulster's Yellow Pages. Many of the newcomers are under-capitalized, unproved one-man outfits, according to Mr Bill Wray, regional secretary of the Industrial Police and Security Association and the Security Association and the proprietor of one of the largest and oldest security firms. Together, the private companies employ about 2,000 but no collective figure of their turnover is available. Eligible clients can obtain government grants of up to 50 per cent of the costs of using them and many traders, particularly hoteliers, prefer to use security contractors rather than hiring their own staff.

Although it has created a boom for them, the emergency is full of hazards, in the commercial sense, for the security firms, according to Mr Wray. "We have to watch very carefully the kind of clients we take on and not take on too much work resulting simply from the troubles. If we did so, we could be left with very little indeed when the troubles cease for we would lose shops, shopping arcades and hotels overnight."

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coopers to look after and restore its whiskey casks.

Old Bushmills is Northern Ireland's only distillery—and the world's oldest. Transformed from the cottage industry which was granted a distilling licence by James I in 1608, it now produces a million gallons of whiskey a year, two thirds of it for export.

Irish whiskey—the "e" distinguishes it from Scotch—has a long tradition. Peter the Great is said to have pronounced soberly after a tour of Europe, "Of all beverages, the Irish is the best". In 1612, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Cockayne, paid a visit to Old Bushmills to purchase a barrel of whiskey for his importers of Bushmills.

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On the international spirits market, Irish whiskey has still to contend with the pre-eminence of Scotch, but is making up ground, partly through the popularity of such drinks as Irish coffee (allegedly the invention of an enterprising barman at Shannon airport). The mar-

mills is primarily aimed overseas, particularly at the United States.

Until recently, the industrial side effects of political upheavals in Northern Ireland have told on Old Bushmills distillery, as on other local companies. But Irish whiskey is beginning to gain some of the international recognition long accorded to Scotch. "The potential is there", Mr McCourt said. "Business is good, and but for the troubles it would be booming."

Old Bushmills retains a large amount of autonomy, and has developed a high

marketing strategy of Old Bushmills.

While the dearth of tourists may enhance the countryside, it does little to promote local products. "If we had a larger influx of people into Northern Ireland, we would sell a lot more whiskey here and abroad," said Mr McCourt. "Old Bushmills preserves its historical distilling techniques, but has recently spent £3m on modernizing its equipment in distillery

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The company which has received awards from both Boeing and Lockheed for high quality and prompt delivery of components, makes aircraft, aerotubes—major components for aircraft of other manufacturers—and missiles, notably close-range guided weapon systems.

The company employs more than 6,000 people and no doubt this influenced the Government's role in its financial restructuring. As Dr P. F. Foreman, the managing director recently pointed out, it was long overdue. Short's authorized share capital had remained unchanged at £2.5m since 1974. Lack of capital meant borrowing to finance major projects and that meant heavy interest charges.

The Northern Ireland Department of Commerce has subscribed four million new £1 shares. The shares capital has increased to £19.31m of which 61.45 per cent is held by the Department of Commerce, 33.85 per cent by the Department of Industry at Westminster and 14.7 per cent by the Royal Group of Belfast, who won orders worth a total of £4.6m. In fact, as Mr Concannon pointed out recently, Northern Ireland has a great deal to offer the offshore oil business.

Five years ago there were only seven companies involved in the industry. Now there are almost 60 in oil-related developments. "We ordered for two Short SD 3-30

airliners for a £12.5m ferry order for a Larne-Stranraer route of British Railways. Two firms servicing the offshore oil industry, G. E. Aeronautics of Belfast and the Royal Group of Belfast,

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Life goes on under siege

Anybody who has the idea that because of the troubles Northern Ireland is some sort of economic desert can forget it. Trade and industry are very much alive and kicking in the province. Those were the words of Mr Don Concannon, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office with responsibility for commerce, and manpower services, when he visited Sheffield earlier this year at the beginning of a trade promotion drive.

Nobody expects a Yorkshire-educated former miner to deliver anything other than a straight-from-the-shoulder observation, and Mr Concannon never disappoints. In spearheading promotional operations the minister finds his initial and greatest difficulty is to persuade a wide variety of Dodge City. "People visiting the province for the first time never cease to be amazed at the degree of normality they find there. They envisage a community under siege, but find to a remarkable extent that the people of the province go about their work and play very much as people in any other community in Great Britain," he observes.

R.K.

Glass cuts unemployment

If you are fortunate enough or important enough to be invited in for a drink by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the odds are you will find yourself clutching one of the heaviest, most beautifully cut, lead crystal 12-ounce whisky glasses it has ever been your pleasure to behold.

The purpose of this homily is not to observe the niceties of entertainment at Stormont Castle, or that Mr Roy Mason knows a good thing when he sees one, but to draw attention to one of Northern Ireland's success stories in manpower. Two companies, Tyrone Crystal and Ulster Crystal (the products of both are to be found in the higher price brackets on Fifth Avenue) owe their early beginnings to the same concept of a scheme unique to Northern Ireland — the Integrated Workforce Unit.

The basic idea is to take about a dozen unemployed men with complementary abilities and train them in basic engineering skills so

that they may operate as a complete unit capable of commercial production. Employers are then invited to take the unit and integrate it into a labour force. Five units are in operation and nine are in training.

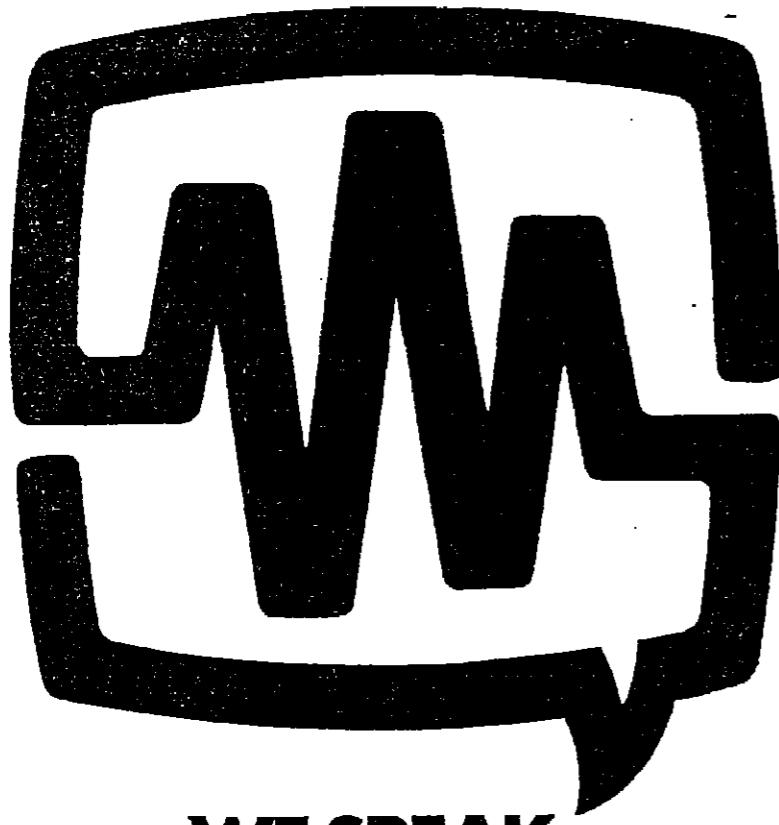
This is provided by the Manpower Services Department at one of the 14 Government Training Centres in the province and while the men are in training the department starts the hunt to place them. Many units have been successfully integrated into a labour force. Five units are in operation and nine are in training.

Another major initiative in training aimed at youth unemployment was announced in June, the Youth Opportunities Programme. There were already 4,000 training and employment places for young people in Northern Ireland. The new scheme stepped this up to 6,000 "training, experience and employment" places.

The aim of the scheme is to channel young people into suitable permanent employment when it becomes available.

There is also a Youth Employment Subsidy of £10 a week to encourage employers to take on young people.

R.K.



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by Ronald Pullen

Without the stable backdrop to be able to assess risks and quantify uncertainty with at least reasonable degree of accuracy, the grey line that invariably exists both in the banking and insurance industries between excessive caution and imprudence stands in danger of being erased altogether.

Northern Ireland's history of civil disorder for the past nine years is just the kind of exogenous factor that might have been expected either to bring the banks and insurance companies to a halt, prepared only to countenance safe and routine business, or to force them into areas that could have led to disaster.

Even a quick cursory look at Northern Ireland's commercial life shows that nothing has happened. But there is no gainsaying the fact that security problems there have been a serious handicap to the development of banking and insurance, especially in the early 1970s when the number of incidents was especially high.

Resilience is one of the words you hear continually in Northern Ireland, and in few areas is this more relevant than in banking and insurance where the companies have come to terms with the difficult working conditions. Moreover, over the past year or so, a new-found confidence appears to be seeping through the financial sector about its longer term future.

Part of the reason for this turn of events may be nothing more, according to the latest Bank

of England figures, advances in province, than that violence and disorder have become so institutionalized that even industry generally, has not only learned to live with the difficulties but have developed a framework to mitigate the worst consequences.

More fundamental though, is that whatever political stresses there have been, economic progress has been fairly rapid—with growth well up to that achieved in many other industrialized countries and at times about twice as fast as the rest of the United Kingdom.

In that sort of hothouse, there is no way that financial institutions can afford to take a back seat without finding their long-term position usurped.

True, as the Quigley report emphasized a year ago, the economy may have stalled for the moment—and long-term capital investment has certainly been deterred by the troubles—but a developing economy demands much of its financial system. Northern Ireland banks were not restricted last year in their lending to the banks and insurance companies have freedom by the introduction of the Bank of England's "corner" scheme.

Interest rates, however,

reflect those in London with the main Northern Ireland banks tying their base rates to the London clearing groups of the big multinational groups which are re-

quire more and more advanced financial services.

Even with the poor under-

lying position in the economy over the last year or so, the banking sector has made good progress.

According to the latest Bank

tandem with the rest of the

ratio requirements. Separate

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reflect those in London with the main Northern Ireland banks tying their base rates to the London clearing groups of the big multinational groups which are re-

quire more and more advanced financial services.

Even with the poor under-

lying position in the economy over the last year or so, the banking sector has made good progress.

According to the latest Bank

tandem with the rest of the

ratio requirements. Separate

figures have been kept since 1966 but the four big banks do have the right to issue their own notes. Nevertheless it is not always sub-

ject to the same clamp-

dows as the rest of the United Kingdom banking system.

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Security forces may be getting the upper hand

by Henry Stanhope

In the autumn of 1974 a colonel in Belfast told me that he thought that the war against the IRA would be over by Christmas of that year. It was not an entirely rash boast in view of the jerky progress which had been made since Operation Motorman in the summer of 1972, towards the restoration of law and order in the Six Counties. But it is worth quoting here as a cautionary tale.

It is worth quoting now particularly because the security forces, after three more years of difficult and dangerous operations are once more in a position from which to view the future with some confidence. No one in Belfast will subscribe to anything more heady than cautious optimism but, after a difficult year last year, more recent statistics show a rising level of attrition against the gunmen.

The pattern is not an even one. The number of explosions in the province until April 30 was only 204 against 606 during the same period in 1976, and the total of shooting incidents stood at 561 as opposed to 1,455. But the rate of incendiarism by the IRA—and anyone else—is actually rising. As many as 179 had been successfully used, against 108 during the first nine months of 1976, and 222 had been neutralised in contrast to 58 last year.

More soldiers have been killed this year, both in the Army (13 against 10 last year) and the Ulster Defence Regiment (12 against eight). And 14 policemen have died—five fewer than in the same period last year, but not in itself a very significant fall.

On the other hand again, the toll among civilians is down, from 201 to 61, and while such statistics provide only a very flimsy base for firm conclusions, they do suggest a continuing decline in the level of violence. The switch in emphasis from the large car bomb explosions to incendiaries, which are smaller, cheaper and easier to conceal, reflects the constraints under which the terrorists must now be operating.



Public relations, army-style, in a Belfast street.

Committed to Way Ahead plan

The security forces are now firmly committed to The Way Ahead, the optimistic title which enshrines the philosophy of RUC primacy. The idea of replacing the Army by the police in the front line of the battle for law and order has been a slow, grinding, wear-down operation. There have been sudden advances and also setbacks—notably the 1975 ceasefire which allowed the IRA to regroup its battered forces. But gradually the security forces have made life increasingly difficult for the gunmen.

The day when a police patrol can move on foot through some of the hard areas of Northern Ireland without a protecting ring of armed troops is still very

far off. The reasons are simply that the gunmen on both sides are gradually losing ground in the war of attrition which has been fought against them. Since Operation Motorman, when the Army established itself in the no-go areas, the fight for law and order has been a slow, grinding, wear-down operation. There have been sudden advances and also setbacks—notably the 1975 ceasefire which allowed the IRA to regroup its battered forces. But gradually the security forces have made life increasingly difficult for the gunmen.

The reasons why The Way Ahead is now becoming a reality rather than a vague concept are complex. One is simply that the RUC is stronger than it was, having quietly regrouped in the rear while the Army has occupied the front line. The criminal investigation department has, for example, been reorganised with regional crime squads and a new intelligence section, and an increase in the number of anti-terrorist specialists.

Another reason is simply that the gunmen on both sides are gradually losing ground in the war of attrition which has been fought against them. Since Operation Motorman, when the Army established itself in the no-go areas, the fight for law and order has been a slow, grinding, wear-down operation. There have been sudden advances and also setbacks—notably the 1975 ceasefire which allowed the IRA to regroup its battered forces. But gradually the security forces have made life increasingly difficult for the gunmen.

Some rapport with local people

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

Social services are under restraint

by Pat Healy

Northern Ireland has had more than its fair share of social problems since well before the present troubles added a new dimension of insecurity to young and old alike.

It was and is, an area of extreme hardship for a frighteningly large proportion of its population, with poverty, poor housing, educational disadvantage and unemployment present to a much larger degree than anywhere else in the United Kingdom.

Paradoxically, the troubles have helped even though they have brought new problems with families uprooted from their former homes, children brought up in an atmosphere of violence at least in the large towns, and elderly people withdrawing more into themselves.

The troubles have had the effect of focusing attention on the degree of economic deprivation in Northern Ireland, which is arguably so high, as to be intolerable even in a "peaceful" society.

A direct result is that the statutory social services are administered more regularly through combined health and social services boards, and are experiencing a higher growth rate than is possible in Britain. Though subject to economic constraints, no service has had to be cut back

in Northern Ireland as has happened in Britain. While British local authorities are having to keep to a maximum 2 per cent growth, and even that has been endangered by overspending, in Northern Ireland the personal social services have a guaranteed growth rate of 4 per cent up to 1980.

But the social services began to develop in 1973 from a much lower base than in Britain which had already enjoyed two years of fast development after reorganisation. And, in spite of the widespread view in Northern Ireland that money is not a real obstacle to developing services, the rate of growth has been slowed by the general need to constrain expenditure.

That is regrettable when Northern Ireland is clearly behind Britain in some of its social services, particularly in relation to children. There are only four day nurseries for children under five in Northern Ireland, all of them in the eastern area which includes Greater Belfast. The number of places that provide under-fives in Northern Ireland which is only half compared with England which has 169 places per 10,000 children and even that is widely acknowledged as meeting only a fraction of the need.

The number of registered childminders is also well below the English total, and minders tend to be concerned more likely to end up being sent away from home. The author is Social Services Correspondent, The Times.

The number of pre-school playgroups does not fall quite so far behind, but they still provide for only half the proportion of under-fives as in England. The one area where Northern Ireland is ahead in providing for under-fives is in education, not social services. Nearly twice as many children start school at four in Northern Ireland as in England.

Both the plight of the under-fives, particularly in the inner city areas, and the recognition that treatment for children in trouble needs overhauling have led to recent government initiatives. In July, Lord Melchett, Minister of State, published a discussion paper on the under-fives in which he called for ideas to achieve rapid progress, and a month earlier the Black Committee published a document on legislation and services for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

The latter has focused a great deal of attention on the plight of children in trouble in Northern Ireland where, although delinquency is only half the rate in Britain, non-offenders are much more likely to end up being sent away from home. Comments on the Black Committee report are still being sought,

but there is now a much more crowded greater commitment among and deprived centres of Northern Ireland professionals.

Serabane with almost no drain in trouble should be officially approved minders treated rather than punished.

The first experimental centre to try to put the principle into practice in Northern Ireland opened in Dromore on October 1 and is now dealing with eight boys who had appeared in court. Before Whitefield House opened, the eight boys would have gone to a residential assessment centre away from their homes; now they are attending the centre each day from their homes, and their parents are being involved directly in deciding how they should be dealt with.

While Whitefield House offers hope that social services in Northern Ireland are developing in more liberal ways, there is little indication of movement in another area which seriously affects the civil liberties of the poor. Because of the high unemployment and low wages prevalent there, Northern Ireland takes a disproportionately higher share of the total social security budget of the United Kingdom than its population would indicate.

But, alone in the United Kingdom, social security claimants can have their benefits unilaterally reduced to pay for public debts like rent, rates, gas and electricity bills.

The author is Social Services Correspondent, The Times.

Some fishing is complimentary

by John Chartres

One of the most engaging of the many statistical publications provided for journalists visiting Northern Ireland is that there is one foot of fish for every three feet of water.

What is one particular benefit in the wide scope of fishing as a recreation—coarse, game or sea—there are vast amounts of the right sort of water, all of it heavily populated below the surface and most of it lightly populated by fishermen around the banks and shores. None of it is measurably polluted.

All forms of fishing are cheap for participants. It is free, of course, anywhere on the sea with steadily increasing fleets of boats for hire available around the 300-mile coastline.

Most of the inland waters have been controlled by the Department of Agriculture for the past 10 years and about 60 loch and river waters can be fished by arrangement for about £6 a season. The department was charged under a 1966 Act with "acquiring and developing inland waters in Northern Ireland for angling".

There are still some so-called "free-fishing" areas where normally only the riparian owner's permission is required, and is usually generously given provided the countryside is respected. Licence and permit requirements vary slightly from area to area and are subject to annual changes in cost but a rough guide for salmon and trout costs

about £2.50 for two weeks and the accompanying rod licence £2.

For other fresh water fishing a Department of Agriculture permit costs 50p a year and a rod licence 70p. Because the department acknowledges that boys—and many girls—like fishing, but seldom have much money, young people under 16 are allowed to fish many waters without permits, naturally with the reservation that they do not take salmon or sea trout without the necessary papers.

The bream, roach and pike on water like the Erne have grown unreliably and to great size. There is no close season for coarse fishing.

A little commercial netting for pike is now permitted under closely con-

trolled conditions since a ready market is being found for the Continent. Eel trapping has always been a small but important feature of the Northern Ireland economy.

On the sea, it is claimed that at least 24 varieties can be caught from the Atlantic on the west to the Irish Sea on the east. In the many almost land-locked estuaries which share the Atlantic with the inland lakes fish can be found. Tens of thousands of salmon are taken annually, mostly by women's sport on Strangford Lough.

The potential of the coast near the Giant's Causeway to the north has only recently been exploited with 10lb bass frequently taken and porbeagle shark and portbeagle nests of congers known about.

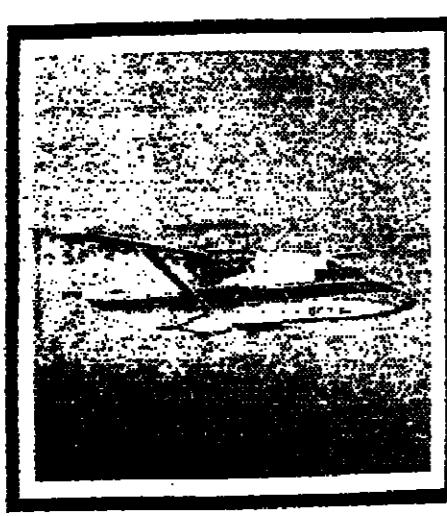
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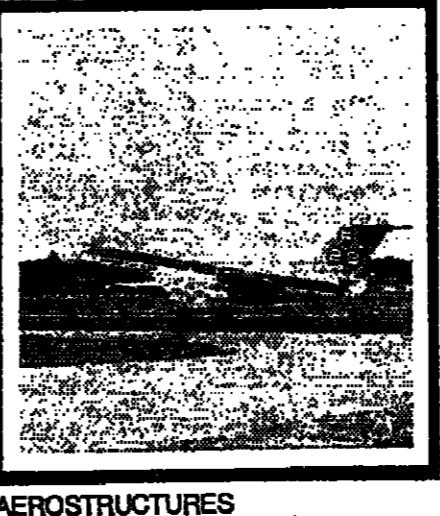
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by Alan Watson

It is not easy for public transport to make a profit in Northern Ireland. The financial performance of the bus companies reflects a considerable achievement for a service faced with hard times and frequent contact with terrorism.

Clybus, which runs a service in Belfast, lost about 20 per cent of its fleet in the year up to last April. Nearly 70 buses went up in smoke. Compensation for a loss like that cannot hope to match the purchase price of new vehicles and yet for the first time since the company took over from the old Belfast Corporation transport department four years ago it made a pre-tax profit. Beyond the tiny boundary Ulsterbus, sister company, managed to complete a decade of trading in which it consistently made a surplus, something rare in public transport in the United Kingdom.

More than 120 buses were destroyed in 1976-77, placing a great burden on a hard-pressed management and bringing staff face-to-face with violence.

Both bus companies, as

well as the railways and Aldergrove airport, operate as limited subsidiary companies under the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company. Though in the public sector their style is that of private enterprise. In a review of the last trading year the chairman, Mr Robert Roston, summed up their performance as "achievement in adversity".

Another side-effect of the civil unrest, which has siphoned off as much as 40 per cent of Belfast's bus trade on the more profitable routes, is the operation of hundreds of taxis, mostly second-hand London cabs which exist with the approval of the so-called paramilitary groups, and with what the authorities regard as inadequate insurance and frequent overcrowding.

Mr Derek Cheatley, chief executive of the Transport Holding Co, estimates that the taxis are taking more than £1m a year on three main routes, which include Falls Road and the loyalist Shankhill Road.

Despite those hardships the public purse gives little to keep the wheels turning. Last year the amount of money granted to passenger transport was £6 a head of the population, as against £15 a head in Britain.

Northern Ireland Railways is still losing money, but it has been building for the future with the introduction of a new central Belfast line connecting major commuter services, and with the opening of the new Belfast Central Station.

The company is now fighting for a further link between the new station and the line to Larne, to Antrim, a move which would connect the entire network. It would involve a new railway bridge over the River Lagan and, though the Department of the Environment has given little consideration to the idea, it was recently described as a live issue by the inspector of the public inquiry into city planning.

Increased use of the railways stemming from that link, coupled with a modest fare rise, could help to clear the railway deficit.

The transport inquiry resumed last month after a summer adjournment. Since the once great plan for the city's urban motorways was scrapped some years ago, the environment department said that cross-channel costs

has presented Belfast with its own set of problems.

One is that resources should be concentrated on public transport; another takes the opposite approach and lays the emphasis on building roads. The department has chosen the middle path by backing the third proposal which provides for a new road bridge over the Lagan, a link road between the two motorways into the city and an inner ring road as well as a moderate improvement in public transport.

The shopping precincts of Belfast are free of traffic for reasons of security, leaving only a series of narrow corridors around the city centre. Industry and commerce are anxious that the link should be built between the M1 and M2 to keep the remaining roads free from heavy cross-town traffic.

Access to the port of Belfast is one of their concerns. Though many of Northern Ireland's roads are unclassified and serve scattered country areas, a lot of them have been reconstructed and improved to European standards.

Despite Government spending cuts, the department has planned an extensive programme. In April this year it put development costs for the next two years at £12m with a further £20m to be released soon afterwards.

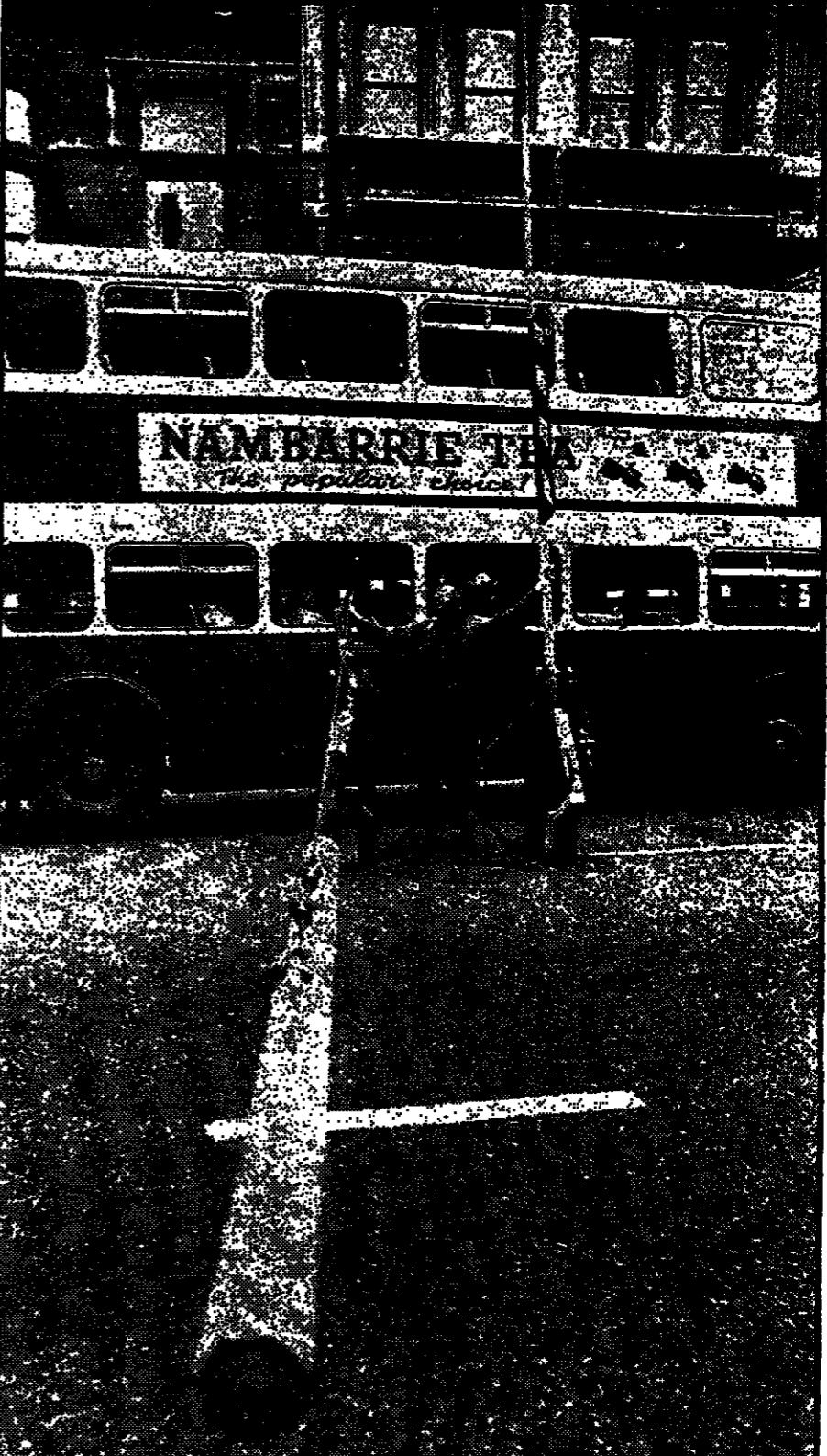
Much of the road improvement to date has been designed to ease the flow of commercial traffic to the main ports. Besides Belfast the two ports capturing most of the cross-channel and international trade are Warrenpoint, in the south-east of the province, and Larne, half an hour's drive from Belfast.

A £4m investment at Warrenpoint has paid in much greater traffic in containers and general cargo and it appears that more space will be needed there to meet future demands.

Much attention has been paid to transport costs to and from the province, mainly because of price rises brought about by steep oil price increases. The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, in a recent survey, recommended freight transport costs as a worrying issue.

It found that the province was not bearing an unusually heavy burden of costs overall, in comparison to other peripheral areas of the United Kingdom. But it

correspondent, Belfast Telegraph



Barrier in Royal Avenue, Belfast. Buses are faced with hard economic times and frequent contact with terrorists.

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by Marcel Berlins

The recent announcement that law making in the year of seat belt compulsory in Northern Ireland was to be introduced did not meet with the welcome that might have been expected for a potentially life-saving measure for the region with the second highest motoring death rate in Western Europe.

Much of the adverse comment was based on the apparent paradox that a law which has consistently failed to get through Westminster can, according to its critics, be "imposed" on Northern Ireland. At the root of that objection is the process by which laws are now made for the province.

Since the British Government assumed direct rule after the collapse of the power-sharing executive in May, 1972, laws affecting Northern Ireland which used to be passed by Stormont are now made by Order in Council in Westminster.

That procedure is widely unpopular in Northern Ireland itself, on the grounds that it gives little

opportunity for debate, and allows the British Government to make laws for the province, however unpalatable they may be. That reasoning, although exaggerated and to some extent misguided, is prevalent.

The anger at the Government's alleged forcing of seat belt legislation on Northern Ireland is the opposite of the usual form of complaint. More often, the laws are imposed, but that insufficient laws are made, and that beneficial measures applying to the rest of the United Kingdom do not cover Northern Ireland, or are made to do so only years later. "The laws we don't want are pushed on to us, and those we do don't reach us," a Belfast lawyer commented wryly.

Not all Northern Ireland laws are made by Orders in Council. Many Acts of Parliament passed in the normal way at Westminster apply to the province. Other laws relating to Northern Ireland are debated in the House of Commons, for example, last year's complex Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act.

First, a proposal for a draft order is drawn up and circulated to all the political parties of Northern Ireland and to the professional legal bodies there, and to all the organisations with a special interest in the subject. It is also publicized in the local press. Comments and reactions are invited, usually within a month, but longer for more complex proposals.

Orders in Council are used to make laws in those areas where Stormont would have passed them, and many subjects were in any case not transferred to Stormont by the 1973 Northern Ireland Constitution Act (including defence, taxation, administration of justice, criminal law, immigration, and many others).

Criticism that the Government can impose laws on Northern Ireland is only true to the extent that with a parliamentary majority, it can do so for the whole of the United Kingdom. There may not be the full and open debate which Stormont used to provide, but there is still considerable opportunity for consultation and for people of the province to make their views known.

The recent law on compensation for criminal damage provides an example of substantial changes being made between the original proposal and the Order as finally drafted, after objections made during the consultation period.

The draft Order is then laid before Parliament, and has to be approved by it. On important issues debate takes place in the Commons. Otherwise, the discussion can take place in committee. The only procedural difference between Bills and those on Orders is that the latter are incapable of having amendments proposed to

them. Orders are either to Northern Ireland. In July this year, the Committee on the Northern Ireland Bill was set up. There is no middle ground. Since direct rule, no draft Orders have been rejected. During the 1976 session, 28 Orders were made, compared with 33 the previous year.

On issues of particular social importance and controversy, much more ground work has to be done even before a proposal is prepared. If it has been a long time since a proposal was made during the period of Stormont's existence, many people in Northern Ireland are likely to be made law. It is also as much as two years. It is also true that the Northern Ireland Office sometimes takes a great deal of persuading that certain measures are desirable and ought to be made law.

All that does not justify the criticism that Northern Ireland is almost forgotten when laws about subjects other than terrorism are involved. Another commentator put it perhaps more accurately: "It's not that we're being totally neglected. They just take a long time getting round to us."

The author is Legal Correspondent, The Times.

by John Roper

In the past eight years the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, has had many honourable mentions in newspapers and on radio and television. Thousands of words have been written about how, as a teaching hospital happening to lie in one of the battlegrounds of Northern Ireland, violence, its accident and casualty department has met and treated the victims of bombs, fire and guns.

It is not as well known that the members of its dedicated staff have, from skill and knowledge gained by hard experience, contributed thousands of words to medical, scientific and other journals to the benefit of what has become known as disaster planning.

The knowledge gained at the hospital about the results of violence, the differences in wounds and injuries caused, for example, by low and high velocity weapons; between those who victims of bomb blast compared with injuries in high-speed motor accidents; about the psychological problems and the

suffering which follows the terrorist attack, is unparalleled in peace-time. It also includes knowledge of how to treat patients who have been tarred and feathered.

There are two categories of skill at the Royal Victoria. First, medical knowledge about the treatment of unusual injuries. Second, about the operations needed to deal effectively with large numbers of casualties often suffering from injuries not often seen in a hospital casualty department.

Between 1970 and 1975 30 papers on traumatic surgery were written by 17 doctors and published in medical journals. Two years ago the British Medical Journal produced a booklet, *Surgery of Violence*, which Sir Ian Frazer, the doyen of surgery in Northern Ireland, said concerned just a little of the work done at the Royal Victoria Hospital doctors.

Much of the success achieved in dealing with casualties at the Royal Victoria is due to good organization. Dr William Rutherford, the consultant casualty surgeon, has addressed conferences on disaster planning in this country, Spain, Holland and Germany.

The command structure which has resolved, senior doctors, nurses and administrators, working with Dr Rutherford, has found that there is great value in sticking to routine. Working under stress, it was found, people tended without thinking to do the same thing that they did every day.

If a disaster plan was drawn up with this in mind, it was likely to go smoothly. The more often procedures departed from daily routine, the more mistakes were likely: for instance, labels tied to patients' wrists were likely to cause more confusion than help.

Sorting out patients on arrival had shown the benefit of a weeping room for the emotionally shocked but uninjured well away from the main stream of patients. It was possible to reproduce, but useful to have a senior doctor to screen requests for X-rays, as that department's main difficulty was the call up of people to become a bottleneck when large numbers of injured patients arrived.

Documentation was vital importance, because regularly rehearsed with advance preparation of lists of patients as for a disaster, and the rerouting of patients as they left a department by one door only.

It is Dr Rutherford's personal conviction that while coordination has been achieved within hospitals much remains to be done outside them. No one in Britain had the single responsibility for making plans for a disaster. But in his view it was essential to have someone in charge, seeing that each separate service was doing its part in preparing plans.

The author is Health Services Correspondent, The Times.

'Old Bushmills' Whiskey



Joy is 150

Tourist figures give modest boost

by John Chartres

The talk in the bars and on the holding areas in the many over-lit hotels of co-Norwegian days often runs to the lines of: "It will be great when the English come back."

The talk this year must note is not about when the tourists come back, but because tourists have continued to visit some of the more deteriorated spots in the British Isles which happen to be Northern Ireland, despite the troubles.

Just why mainland Europeans have been less deterred than the English, Welsh, Scots and Americans, is a little obscure, but it probably has something to do with the fact that they have been less exposed to the constant detailed reporting of the violence and political squabbling.

There is also the implausible fact that English people—and many Scots and some Welsh—have felt that certain Irishmen dislike them more than they do the mainland Europeans and could display that dislike in an unpleasant manner towards holidaymakers.

The IRA activities in England, too, have obviously had a special effect and the one

English region which has almost totally deserted Northern Ireland as a holiday area has been the West Midlands after the Birmingham bomb attack.

American visitors, who used to number 80,000 a year, have dwindled to 17,000, almost all of whom come to visit friends and relatives. A resumption of transatlantic parties of Americans "doing" both the Republic and Ulster, will mark another important step forward to normality and there are some fairly sanguine hopes that this could begin next year.

Tourism figures, like a former minister of the old Stormont government once brought boulds of derision down on his head by saying a tourist was as likely to be harmed in a riot as knocked down by a camel in Belfast's Royal Avenue. But he was nearly right; only three cases involving tourists in injury have been recorded and it is not entirely certain that they were holidaymakers in the true sense. But there have not been all that many tourists places like Belfast and Londonderry.

One group of British visitors who have seldom been deterred from coming are the fishermen. It would obviously take more than a bomb or two to keep them away from the sort of hauls they can get in waters like the Erne.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has always recognized the dangers of minimizing the risks and had adopted a realistic policy "for the duration". It does not attempt any direct con-

sideration because there is just not sufficient bedroom capacity.

"It takes at least 18 months for accommodation units to be developed from the first planning stages to make independent judgements.

This approach has been successful in Germany, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

The emphasis throughout the industry now is on the activity holiday, it being recognized that Ulster's traditional seaside resorts such as Portrush and Bangor have at best a limited appeal to outsiders.

Tourism figures, like

a steady growth of confidence. Lough Erne system has a special quality about it. The long—or more accurately two lengths joined by the fascinating Narrows at Enniskillen—is as safe as any stretch of water more than 4m deep can be, yet its very size and the complexity of the island geography make cruising on it feel truly adventurous.

One does not need any more nautical skill than an intelligent person can absorb in the training session which the boat hirers give, yet one obviously cannot fool about on such a stretch of water.

As one of the tourist board brochures aimed at the European market points out, there is almost every kind of outdoor activity, including fishing, golf, game shooting, riding, yachting, cruising, climbing and caving.

In fact a new government plan which includes an increase in the grant levels to hotels, guest houses and boarding houses so that in future the amount of grant aid will be tied directly to the improvement or provision of bedroom accommodation.

The hotel grants scheme will also in future include self-catering establishments and new powers will enable the Department of Commerce to operate a special short-term repairs and renewals scheme.

One of the greatest attractions lies in its many small and medium-sized hotels in country districts, many of them owned by specially homes of special charm. The large city hotels in Belfast and Londonderry have suffered badly in the troubles, with five being lost through bomb damage or sheer lack of business.

Last year the Department of Commerce paid out nearly £700,000 in grants for "tourist amenity" schemes compared with £514,000 in 1975 and only £187,000 in 1974—figures which indicate Motor boat cruising on the

Erne system has a special quality about it. The long—or more accurately two lengths joined by the fascinating Narrows at Enniskillen—is as safe as any stretch of water more than 4m deep can be, yet its very size and the complexity of the island geography make cruising on it feel truly adventurous.

One does not need any more nautical skill than an intelligent person can absorb in the training session which the boat hirers give, yet one obviously cannot fool about on such a stretch of water.

To say that the Erne system has been developed would create a totally wrong impression. One can still cruise all day without seeing more than one or two other craft; the landing jetties and lakeside villages have to be sought out with a chart and the excellent system of marker posts. Binoculars are a standard and necessary part of the hire boats' equipment. The cruisers are also probably the cheapest in their class which can be hired by the week anywhere in the world.

There are many ways of travelling in Northern Ireland but my choice would be to drive the somewhat tortuous but scenically beautiful route to Loch Ryan in south-west Scotland, and make the two-hour sea crossing on either a British Rail Sealink or a Townsend ferry.

Both services are efficient, run with the minimum of fuss and formality and are relatively cheap especially for a family with a car, which is essential with one to enjoy Northern Ireland.

Age at root of housing difficulties

by David Watson

Two starting official surveys by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which has been in charge of all public authority homes for almost five years, have revealed a legacy of almost million pound damage the had quiet years, years, cutting away before people's refers years before the terrorist bombs began to demolish the bricks in the present interict conflict.

Of all the 455,500 homes in the province, 19.5 per cent were found to be structurally unfit—more than twice the percentage in a 1971 survey of England and Wales—and at 1974 prices would have needed some £215m to repair.

A further 178-page household survey told a community already shocked by economic inflation and divided by gun rule on its streets that one family in three lived below the poverty line—478,570 people, including 191,040 children under the vulnerable age of 16 years.

Four families in ten live in what would be termed a council house in the rest of the United Kingdom, although local authorities have had housing and planning responsibilities taken away from them after political scandals over house allocations and allegations of gerrymandering.

It was not until 1956 that the first redevelopment areas were marked out in Belfast, although today's planners believe progress was slow. In 1963 a study of population trends was carried out by Sir Robert Matthew, a leading United Kingdom planning consultant, whose recommendation that a building spine should be drawn around Belfast was

adopted by the now-defunct Unionist Government at Stormont. This also resulted in a programme of new town development, setting up the new city of Craigavon and enlarging Antrim and Ballymena.

Craigavon was declared Northern Ireland's first new town in 1963, when 5,000 acres of land was acquired by the Government. The idea was to encourage Belfast people to move from overspill areas to the new growth centre; a major inducement was the opening of the Goodyear tyre factory, providing many of the 8,000 jobs created there.

But, although 7,000 houses were erected, a 500-bed hospital built along with community halls, neighbouring centres and shops and 6,000 schools, the concept of a new growth centre, a department of the Environment official explained.

Despite this, planners still visualize a Craigavon with 85,000 residents by 1995. Sir Robert's investigation of a Belfast that was then flourishing forecast that the city's half-million population would rise to 700,000 by 1981 unless people were encouraged to move to growth centres. In 1971 the population almost hit that figure, but has declined to what is now 560,000.

Planners are now completely revising those earlier schemes to save a population said by one Northern Ireland Office minister to live in "some of the worst housing in Europe".

That battle is on, and there are problems, for 17 per cent of households are overcrowded and 35 per cent declared sub-standard.

"The inner city decay that

everyone now knows about is serious. Much of the housing stock should have been replaced 30 or 40 years ago, but no one did it. The result is that time has caught up on us."

Although there is now £150m available for the next five years, housing officials

say it will take 10 years before they can hope to achieve decent housing standards, and this will involve replacement or rehabilitation of perhaps half the city's housing stock.

Typical of Belfast's slum conditions are the thousands of back-to-back terrace houses that grew up for mill workers in the industrial revolution. Most belonged to private landlords, and archaic rent restriction laws that were never repealed mean that of more than 55,000 privately rented unfurnished households throughout Northern Ireland, 78 per cent pay less than £2 a week in rent and rates—figures unchanged since the First World War.

This low income for landlords means that for decades these thousands of homes have had little repair carried out and most lack basic amenities such as bathrooms and lavatories, enough bedrooms and kitchen facilities.

Now most of these homes have been taken over by the housing executive, awaiting redevelopment or rehabilitation, and their rents have been frozen—often at about only 50p a week—until something is done. Soon the Government will legislate to end this system of controlled rents and, after April next year, hopes to see a start made on saving 20,000 of these homes which are believed to have "a good long-term future".

Housing officials maintain that there is no shortage of homes for Protestants in Belfast, but in Catholic west Belfast the area is over-crowded sound.

Some 30,000 houses in Belfast have been scheduled for redevelopment, but a senior planner admitted:

"Lots of these houses have been acquired and are now being cleared and rebuilt, but we are 10 to 15 years behind England, although

that there is no shortage of homes for Protestants in Belfast, but in Catholic west Belfast the area is over-crowded sound.

Sport proves itself above politics

by Malcolm Brodie

If a peace prize is ever awarded for sport, Northern Ireland must unquestionably qualify as its first recipient. Throughout eight years of civil strife and adversity the governing bodies and almost 400,000 participants, not to mention spectators, have carried on against almost insurmountable odds. Their courage, determination and resilience must be commended.

In those dark, frightening days when terrorism was at its peak, sport kept going in a manner which bewildered many. It crossed the divide, broke the barriers.

For only one season, 1972-73, it was not possible to stage European club soccer fixtures. International matches, however, had to be played away from home for four years. However, once the Yugoslavs ended the isolation in 1974, the Norwegian, Swedish, English, Welsh, Dutch and Icelandic sides followed immediately with appearances at Windsor Park, Belfast, the Irish Football Association's international headquarters.

Club teams such as PSV Eindhoven, Liverpool, Southampton, Juventus, Ajax, Parizan Belgrade, Standard Liege, and Feyenoord have all delighted the Northern Ireland spectator with their skill, artistry and colour.



John Watson, the racing driver: one of many successful people in sport.

and, frequently, creating a crowd-pulling propensity of about 30,000 even under floodlight. Not an incident marred those occasions as sport revealed its desire to be dissociated from any form of politics.

Northern Ireland's Sports Council, whose first three year term under the progressive, independent chairmanship of Colonel E. D. R. Shearer and, with the administrative acumen of its director Mr George Glasgow, has just ended, played a vital role in fostering and developing spirit. It did more than that by giving youth an opportunity of experiencing healthy pursuits particularly in the so-called ghetto areas, and of realizing there is more life than the bomb and the bullet.

Colonel Shearer, a former international soccer player and cricketer, aptly summed it up when he said: "Sport here is not divisive. It unites not only those of opposing politics but also those from every background and of different ages. Sport is a world of Christian names and it is a community too close-knit to make room easily for those who do not share a softless interest."

It has been an amazing year. During three years capital works worth £6m have been completed, capital grants paid by the Department of Education rose

from £1m in 1973-74 to almost £4m in 1976-77 while, during the same period, payments to voluntary sports organizations increased from £40,000 to £140,000 a year.

Cold statistics do not tell the entire story. Anyone living in the rest of the United Kingdom or indeed any part of the world and forming an opinion of Northern Ireland through a diet of newspaper reading and television viewing on violence must be astonished when he finds that an estimated 150,000 adults alone are affiliated to sports organizations, with 80 governing bodies controlling it all. The

author is sports editor, Belfast Telegraph.

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BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH BUSINESSMEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

On August 1 this year Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced new economic measures to encourage manufacturing and service industries to set up and expand in the Province.

The immediate benefits are a massive subsidy to reduce the cost of electricity, substantial increases in grants for building and equipping factories and generous financial aid for research and development work. Other existing grants and incentives have also been made more attractive.

BIGGER GRANTS FOR BUILDING

One of the most attractive incentives in Northern Ireland has been the building grants. At between 30% and 40%, according to area, they've been considerably higher than in any other UK region.

Now they are even further ahead. The minimum rate, without employment conditions, remains at 30% but the upper limit on the selective assistance rate has been increased to 50%.

LONGER RENT-FREE PERIODS FOR FACTORIES

For companies seeking to lease ready-built factories, Northern Ireland has been able to offer a choice free of rent for the first three years.

Now the rent-free period is extended to five years, which should allow tenants to become firmly established before having to cost rental against profitability.

BIGGER GRANTS FOR PLANT

Selective assistance grants for plant and machinery have also been running at between 30% and 40%. These, too, are now increased up to 50% with the minimum rate, with employment conditions, being maintained at 30%.

So, when the full value of tax concessions is taken into consideration, it can mean that the Government contributes up to 99.4% of initial plant costs.

UP TO £250,000 FOR R&D WORK

For the first time in Northern Ireland, grants are directly available for research and development work.

Similar to the grants already mentioned, they are offered at the new high rate of 40% to 50%. The limit for any one project is £250,000.

R&D grants can be applied for irrespective of whether or not the applicant has received other forms of grant assistance from Government here.

GREATER INTEREST RELIEF

For companies raising money from other than Government sources, Government assistance towards financing costs has been increased. The maximum period for the highest rate of Interest Relief Grant has gone up from two to three years and can still be followed by four years at 3% a year.

CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TOWARDS START-UP AND RUNNING COSTS

Northern Ireland is now the *only* region of the United Kingdom which provides assistance towards start up costs; additional grants designed to provide new projects with a substantial inflow of revenue during the build-up period—individually negotiated on the basis of total capital requirements for each new project. Northern Ireland is now also the *only*

region of the United Kingdom where manufacturers continue to be paid a Selective Employment Premium of £2 per week per adult worker and £1.20 per week per worker under 18 years of age.

plus consequential loss of business profits. Subject to reinstatement of employment, compensation at full replacement value is payable on fixed assets—plus consequential loss.

CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD TO IGNORE NORTHERN IRELAND?

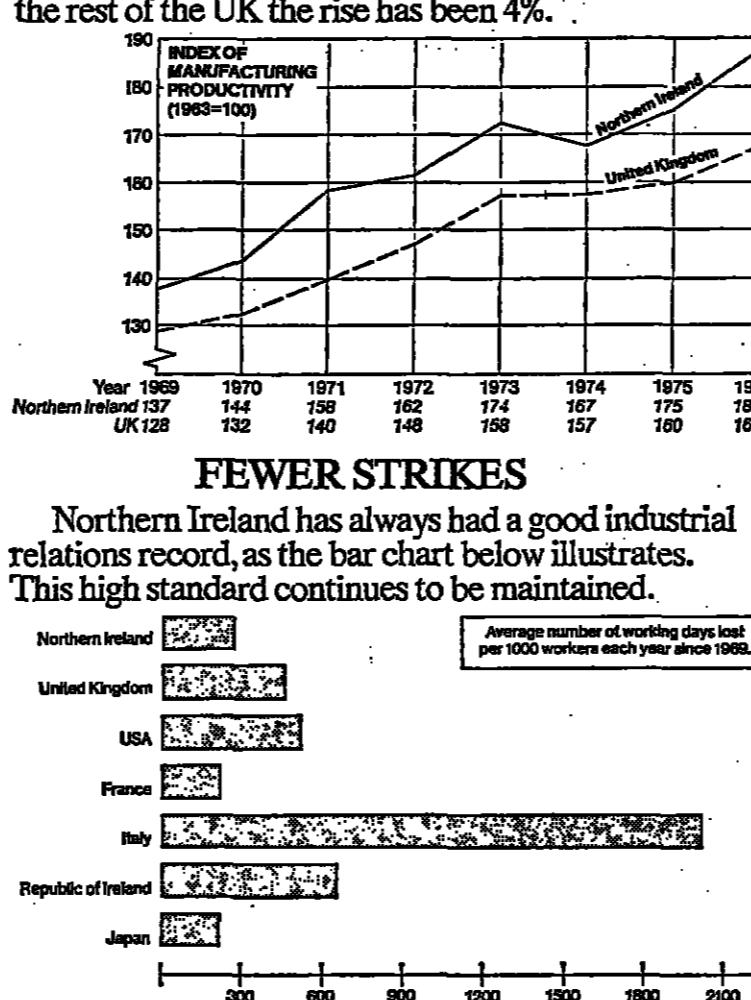
Manufacturers who in the past have tended to omit Northern Ireland from their location planning on grounds of isolation or of risk might now question whether, in fairness to their shareholders, they can any longer afford to do so. Particularly in view of the fact that industrial consumers in the Province are to enjoy cheaper electricity.

In recent years huge investment in plant and the oil price explosion forced the cost of electricity up at a higher rate in Northern Ireland than in Great Britain.

To reduce industrial tariffs the Government proposes to write off the majority of the Electricity Service's debt to the Government Loans Fund and to provide a grant of some £100 million, spread over the next five years. This should bring the cost of electricity down to the level of other UK Development Areas.

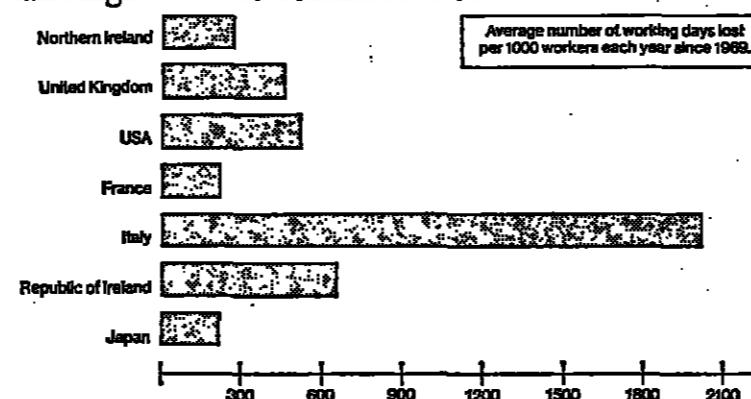
You won't find any other area within the EEC—let alone any other region in the UK—offering such a wide and generous range of industrial benefits together with the environment and infrastructure to get the most out of them.

So can you really afford to ignore the opportunities we offer? Complete the coupon below and learn the facts at first hand.



FEWER STRIKES

Northern Ireland has always had a good industrial relations record, as the bar chart below illustrates. This high standard continues to be maintained.



HOW GREAT IS THE RISK?

It's only natural for anyone coming to Northern Ireland to want to assess the risk.

Perhaps the simplest way to put this in perspective is to look at one straightforward comparison. The mortality rate due to the troubles in Northern Ireland from 1969 until end June of this year averaged 14 (civilian, Army and local security forces) per 100,000 of the population. This rate exactly equals Great Britain's fatal road accident rate which is currently running at 14 per 100,000. Equivalent rates on the Continent in 1975 were Sweden 15.3, France 23.5, the Netherlands 23.8, Italy 25.9 and West Germany 29.9.

The risk to security of investment is correspondingly low. Legislation in Northern Ireland provides for compensation for damage caused by malicious acts. This compensation takes account of the depreciated value of fixed assets before damage,

To: Director of Industrial Development, (Room 410), Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 4JX, Northern Ireland. Tel: Belfast 34488, Ext. 435. Please send me further details on the opportunities for Industrial Expansion in Northern Ireland.

Name _____

Company _____

Position in Company _____

Address _____

Type of business _____

**NORTHERN IRELAND
ASK ANY BUSINESSMAN WHO'S ALREADY HERE.**

J.P. 150



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TREMORS IN GERMANY

The West German Government has made a worthy but hopeless attempt to tell the story of the kidnapping of Dr Schleyer. After imposing an almost total blackout on information during the weeks of the events themselves, it presumably felt obliged to compensate, but when it faced the task it quickly found that many of the reasons for not talking at the time remain reasons for not talking now. The result is a long report with a lot of fascinating detail which tells little of substance that was not known already.

Frustrating but unavoidable. The German Government would obviously be wrong to give away details of manoeuvres which might have to be used again. It would be foolish to embarrass or alienate foreign governments by documenting what they did and did not do to help. It would be wrong to publish anything which might help the kidnappers to evade capture or which might prejudice their trial if they are captured.

This does not mean that the exercise was a complete waste of time. It tells what can be told; it conveys an idea of the complexities of the operation; and in a section on contacts with the prisoners it strengthens the evidence that they did indeed commit suicide. There has never been any convincing evidence that they were murdered, but a great many people outside Germany have shown a depressing eagerness to believe that they were. A final verdict must await the results of the investigations, but so far every fact which emerges makes murder even less likely than it seemed at the time. This will make no impact on those who believe only what they want to believe, but it should at least remove some of the assurance from those people (includ-

ing many French intellectuals who have shown a surprising lack of intellectual rigour) who are excessively eager to believe whatever version of events brings most discredit on the German authorities.

Such people are probably few, but they are a cause for concern. In some countries they have demonstrated and attacked German property. They assiduously spread a misleadingly black picture of the state of German democracy. They make it more difficult for their own governments to provide the full international cooperation which is necessary in the fight against terrorism. And they provoke worry and resentment among Germans which could in the long run become damaging to the cohesion of Europe.

The West Germans are acutely conscious that they are still living with memories of the war, but they have worked hard for their internal and external rehabilitation and have devoted themselves more energetically than most of their critics to the European Community. If they come to feel that nothing they are supporting is Europe which repays them by dislike, they could at some point turn sour and politicians ready to exploit that sourness would be at hand. The danger is still remote but it would be irresponsible to advance it.

This factor puts additional burdens on West German politicians, who are watched not only at home, but also abroad. Most have risen to their responsibilities in recent weeks but the temptation to make political capital out of terrorism is still great. Probably the only fortunate aspect of the whole affair is that it was the Land of Baden-Württemberg, which is ruled by

Christian Democrats, which was responsible both for the inadequate protection of Dr Schleyer before his kidnap, and for the administration of the prison in which the terrorists died. This has somewhat taken the wind out of the sails of right-wing politicians who had been accusing the Government of laxity.

But this by no means removes the issue from German politics. There is still the much broader argument whether a more rigorous ideological climate on top of more rigorous laws would encourage or discourage terrorism. The Christian Democrats are probably right to suggest that there have been shortcomings in the political education of the postwar generation. The real meaning of democracy and how it functions has not been fully brought home to many young Germans who anyway have understandable difficulty in identifying with a state formed out of only part of a country with a broken history. But some of the answers proposed by more right-wing politicians could exacerbate the situation by promoting just those aspects of German society which already cause tension, such as a certain lack of tolerance for opposing views. If even the moderate left is unjustly branded—as it has been by some politicians—as sympathetic to terrorism or to the feelings that lie behind it, West German society could be pushed towards greater antagonisms at the very moment when it most needs to overcome them. This could also have the effect of weakening the influence and commitment of those German left-wing intellectuals and politicians whose voices carry most weight among Germany's critics abroad.

The pamphlet is concerned with the situation as it is in Rhodesia today, not as it might have been. It does not advocate an armed struggle, but it does recognize its existence as a fact. The situation in Rhodesia is one of civic and military oppression by an illegal regime which has blocked every constitutional and peaceful alternative for its black subjects, showing bringing upon them and laterly upon the white citizens of Rhodesia, great suffering. The authors plead for an understanding of the convictions of those caught up in the struggle for freedom from this regime.

In addition, defendants may challenge any number of jurors for cause, by showing for instance that the opinions they hold, or their job, or their previous involvement with particular people or issues created possible prejudice against the defence. In the United States challenges for cause have become an art form, with the result that the empanelling of juries there often lasts several days. That ought not be allowed to happen here. Juries should continue to represent the community at random: a principle which applies especially where questions of public morality or society's limits of toleration are in issue.

THE RANDOM PRINCIPLE FOR JURIES

The essence of the jury is that it is drawn from a wide cross section of the community as possible and that jurors are chosen at random. Up to 1974, the criticism could validly be made that juries were not representative because the property-owning qualifications which applied excluded a high percentage of women and young people. When those qualifications were removed, and the lower age limit reduced to eighteen, virtually the whole community became liable for jury service, and the various exemptions allowed did not derogate to any significant extent from that principle.

The fact that the total pool of potential jurors is representative of the community does not, however, mean that the same is true for every individual jury.

The random choice of twelve people for a particular case can and often does produce a freak result. What is more worrying is that there has been an

increasing tendency in many kinds of cases for defendants or their counsel to try deliberately to obtain an unrepresentative jury, made up of the type of people who might be thought to be more sympathetic to the defence case or to the defendants themselves. There has been a regrettably successful application to have an all-woman jury, and happily unsuccessful attempts to have juries consisting only of blacks. The exclusion of apparently middle class conservative-looking jurors of a certain age has been tried on several occasions, with varying effects on the ultimate composition of the jury.

In the latest example, earlier this week, four defendants in a pornography trial were able to obtain an all-male jury by the single expedient of challenging all the women who were being put forward. Up to September of this year, every defendant was entitled to challenge seven jurors without giving any cause.

THE FETING OF MR LÉVESQUE

It is traditional for France to receive with special honours a Québec provincial prime minister. Between France and Québec there necessarily subsists a special relationship. The impression however has been given that the arrangements made for Mr René Lévesque's visit go farther than on any previous occasion. Were it so, it would be difficult not to conclude that he is being feted because he is the first Québec prime minister to be committed to the creation of another independent French-speaking country. Mr Lévesque is a past master at publicity and undoubtedly this is the impression that he wishes to foster. Nevertheless, it would seem that President Giscard d'Estaing is being careful to keep the courtesies within the approved limits of protocol. Mr Lévesque is dining with the Government, with all the ministers present, but this falls short of the honour extended to Mr Bourassa, his predecessor, who attended a meeting of the Conseil des Ministres.

It is tempting to see in Mr Lévesque and there are political

motives for that. President Giscard knows very well that Washington is not happy with Mr Lévesque's policies, for it sees in a break up of Canada a possible threat to its own defences. Looking at the politics of some of Mr Lévesque's colleagues and members of the Parti Québécois, the Americans were not reassured by his promises that an independent Quebec would collaborate in North American defence.

Mr Lévesque's own interests are clear. He wishes on his return to present his reception as an expression of France's support for an independent Quebec. France's belief that separation would be economically advantageous and French readiness to sustain it with finance. His problem in the next two years is to convert a minority of Quebecers ready to vote "Out" in his referendum on secession into a majority.

France's encouragement and material aid would be a powerful propaganda point. It remains to be seen how much he will get of either. So far there has been no echo of the General's "vive le Québec libre".

properly concerned—as no doubt many other of our Bleachley Park colleagues—about his position in relation to the Enigma disclosures. His proposal, however, that all concerned should be "individually informed" that they are now at liberty to talk is surely quite out of line in view of the wording of the Official Secrets Act declaration.

The one I signed required us to maintain the statutory silence with regard to all secret information in our possession "save such as has already been made public". I expect his did too.

F. W. Winterbotham's *The Ultra Secret*, which "blew" the Enigma story three years ago, was published with the go-ahead, if not the blessing of the relevant authorities. Now that a section—alas still very incomplete—of decoded Enigma messages is available for study at the Public Record Office, I think it reasonable to assume that we are now off the hook.

As you so rightly point out, it is unlikely that Russia will walk out of the conference, but, even in the unlikely event of such a withdrawal, this would be infinitely preferable to an outcome which, in the name of dévénement, will make a mockery of the entire human rights issue and also confer on the Kremlin the undeserved aura of a benevolent super power amenable to diplomatic reasoning and sympathetic to human rights ideas.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, WI.

such as the self-sacrifice of the West, it cannot be larger than the point of a needle.

We are asked to believe not only that the most controversial issues of our times can be discussed without controversy, but also that the audacious avoidance of anything that might incur the displeasure of the communist countries, is a higher form of wisdom.

In fact the Belgrade conference has already shown that the self-sacrifice of the West is little more than a device to conceal the gap between its ostensible aims and the charade of maintaining momentum for its own sake.

The USSR and its allies have had two years to implement the solemn promises of the "Final Act". It is remarkable that every single promise made by the communists was broken. What possible

reason can there be for the claim that some of these promises may still be kept by the Eastern dictators, if only the West will not point a finger at specific violations of human rights or do so only with discreet diffidence?

If the Belgrade conference is to achieve anything at all, then the Western delegation will have to realize that there is no halfway house between effective pressure (however declaratory) and mere pussy-footing.

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LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, WI.

Enigma disclosures

From Sir Herbert MERCHANT
Sir, Mr Coulson, in his letter of October 27 shows himself very

Revaluation of sterling

From the Director-General of the Committee on Invisible Exports

Sir, The sharp rise in the pound is now seen as a potential threat to some British exports. But the Chancellor has one option available which is to use fully fast track. He could decide to dismantle some of the exchange controls which have piled up from every earlier spending crisis. These controls range from 25 per cent surcharge on oil and other restricted imports to 10 per cent on the activities of the insurance companies, the Stock Exchange and the investment trusts) to the restrictions on third country sterling trade and on direct investment overseas. Any decision to dismantle them would have three beneficial results:

1. It would help to curb the upward pressure on the pound and thus reduce some of the current anxiety in British manufacturing.

2. It would free several City markets and institutions from the restrictions imposed in earlier crises and enable them to earn more "invisible" income.

3. It would enable British manufacturing industry to invest in success in overseas markets and sharpen Britain's export drive.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM M. CLARKE,
Director-General, Committee on
Invisible Exports,
7th Floor,
The Stock Exchange, EC2

November 1

Guerrillas in Rhodesia

From the Bishop of Chelmsford

Sir, In his thoughtful letter printed in *The Times* of October 26 Mr Walter Salmond, who prepared the recent British Council of Churches report *Rhodesia Now: The Liberation of Zimbabwe* with "muddled if benevolent thinking". But however distressing it may be for those of us who wish Rhodesia well, it is not muddled thinking to recognize reality.

The pamphlet is concerned with the situation as it is in Rhodesia today, not as it might have been. It does not advocate an armed struggle, but it does recognize its existence as a fact. The situation in Rhodesia is one of civic and military oppression by an illegal regime which has blocked every constitutional and peaceful alternative for its black subjects, showing bringing upon them and laterly upon the white citizens of Rhodesia, great suffering. The authors plead for an understanding of the convictions of those caught up in the struggle for freedom from this regime.

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In addition, defendants may challenge any number of jurors for cause, by showing for instance that the opinions they hold, or their job, or their previous involvement with particular people or issues created possible prejudice against the defence. In the United States challenges for cause have become an art form, with the result that the empanelling of juries there often lasts several days. That ought not be allowed to happen here. Juries should continue to represent the community at random: a principle which applies especially where questions of public morality or society's limits of toleration are in issue.

Yours truly,

J. JOHN CHELMSFORD,
Chairman of the Executive
Committee,
British Council of Churches,
10 Eaton Gate, SW1.
October 28

Hanging the Turners

From the Chairman of the Turner Society

Sir, Predictably the Tate Trustees have rushed to the barricades to defend their treasures, as if the Turner Bequest really was their property, putting up smoke screens of pseudo-scientific arguments and referring me all to the generous and fair-minded views of our President, Henry Moore, and Lord Clark, set out in their recent letter in your columns (October 18).

To them, as in my point at issue is that a substantial part of the Turner Bequest, in search of a home for over a century, could so fittingly be shown to such advantage at Somerset House, in need of a role, to produce one of the most interesting and attractive galleries of Britain.

Any defects Somerset House may have as a gallery are more than compensated by its aesthetic and historic appeal and most of its technical deficiencies can be remedied, if not quite eliminated, by modern technology.

Perhaps, to spare the scruples of the Trustees, a slight amendment to the Tate Gallery Act 1954 might be the short answer, designed to prise this fabulous pearl from the Millbank matrix and place it at last in a fitting receptacle.

Yours etc,

J. ALLAN PEARCE,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.
October 31

From Mr Humphrey BROOKE

Sir, Sir Hugh Casson's letter in your issue of November 1 is in strange contrast to Mr Paul Overy's article on another page "Turners best seen by the score". Yet each of these authorities makes valid points.

What has been overlooked ever since it was first proposed to fill Somerset House with Turners, is the fact that 70 years ago Sir J. D. Duveen (the father of Lord Duveen) defrauded the cost of adding nine galleries to the Tate for the specific purpose of displaying the Turner Bequest—so much for the notion that this great artist's wishes have been ignored.

I expect to know that supplementary space soon be available in the adjacent Military Hospital. This will make the prospect of visitors having to trek to Somerset House less agreeable.

Yours faithfully,

HUMPHREY BROOKE,
Deputy Keeper at the Tate
Gallery, 3rd Floor, 100 New Bond Street, SW1.

October 31

Enigma disclosures

From Sir Herbert MERCHANT

Sir, Mr Coulson, in his letter of October 27 shows himself very

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

American withdrawal from the ILO

From Lord Noel-Baker

Sir, Your leading article today (November 2) makes an unanswerable case against the United States Government's decision to leave the ILO.

The decision is a break with United States traditional policy. The first conference of the Organization was held in Washington at the invitation of Woodrow Wilson. Much of its best work has been done under the guidance of United States citizens who served as Directors General.

When the first of these, John (GH) Wigram, left Geneva to become United States wartime Ambassador to London, he told me that, in his belief, no inscription in human history had done so much to improve the lives of so many hundreds of millions of men and women as the ILO.

It will be a grievous loss to the United States that it will no longer be taking part in the ILO's magnificently successful work. The loss to the ILO will be mitigated by the fact that it will no longer have to tolerate the neo-Joseph McCarthyism of Mr Meany and those who share his views—views which constitute a formula for the suicide of the human race.

There remains the question of how the ILO should meet the serious financial loss of \$1m a year which the United States' decision will entail. When in 1920 the United States Senate decided to leave the League of Nations, Britain and France agreed that they would nevertheless bring the League to the United Nations, which developed into such a success that it is now a pleasure to meet the ILO.

Moreover, the original ILO concept was one of tripartite discussion between, respectively, the government, trade unions, and employers' organizations of member nations. The membership of monolithic communist countries has turned this approach into a fiasco.

My last attendance at the ILO,

shortly after the Russian military suppression of the Hungarians, the delegates of the USSR wasted a great deal of time denouncing the shortcomings of the Western democracies. Well done Mr President.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. M. KIRKWOOD,

Haven House,

Sandwich,

Kent.

November 1

Conditions in Antigua

From Sir Kenneth BLACKBURN

Sir, I fear that your correspondent covering the Queen's tour of the Caribbean was unable during his short visit to obtain a fully balanced view of conditions in Antigua.

I was in Antigua myself two weeks ago, my second return visit after living there for six years while Governor of the Leeward Islands, 1950 to 56.

I was delighted to see the improvements of all kinds in this formerly backward colony, nearly all of which are due to the leadership of the present Premier—Mr C. B. Bird, who was abused at the demonstration reported by your correspondent and further designated by him in his article in *The Times*.

The facts are these. During my tenure of office the Labour Party headed by Mr Bird came to power, almost entirely because it was based on a single trade union which then



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE: November 2: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended by the Duchess of Grafton, the Hon Mary Morrison, the Right Hon Sir Philip Moore, Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ainslie, Mr Robert Falconer, Mr Ronald Allison, Lieutenant-Colonel Elsie Stewart-Wilson, Surgeon-Captain Norman Blacklock, RN, Air Commodore Archie Winskill and Lord Rupert Neill arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening in a Concorde aircraft of British Airways (Captain N. V. Todd) from Bahrain.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Admiral Sir Charles Madden, Bt (Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London), His Excellency Mr Cecil Williams (High Commissioner for the Eastern Caribbean), the Right Hon Edmund Dell, MP (Secretary of State for Trade), Mr Ross Stainton (Deputy Chairman, British Airways), Mr Michael Paine (Chairman, British Airways Authority) and Mr Michael King (Director, Heathrow Airport, London).

KENSINGTON PALACE: November 2: The Duke of Gloucester opened the Barnes Corinth Swimming Pool and watched swimming displays and demonstrations given by school children of the borough and international swimming stars this afternoon.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE: November 2: Princess Alexandra, Deputy Honorary Colonel of The Royal Yeomanry, this morning received Colonel M. S. J. V. Gibbs, Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Bon M. H. Albany upon relinquishing the appointment as Commanding Officer, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. C. Blingay upon assuming this appointment.

Vivian Linley is 16 years old today.

Viscountess Raynham gave birth to a son in London yesterday. There will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of J. Hartshorn, son of St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, at 12.30 pm on Thursday, November 10, 1977.

A memorial service for Keith Goodfellow, QC, will be held on Monday, November 7, in the Temple Church at 4.45 pm. A memorial service will be held for Colonel C. G. Lancaster on Wednesday, November 9, at noon in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London.

Birthdays today

Major-General Sir Allan Adair: 80; Sir Kenneth Corlett, 69; Sir Alan Drury, 88; Miss Violene Elvin, 52; Sir John Hunter, 65; Mr Ludovic Kennedy, 58; Sir Bertrand Lester, 70; Sir Stephen MacKenzie, 70; Major-General Viscount Mountbatten of Brenchley, 62; Sir Frederick Russell, 80.

Eve of session

Prime Minister: The Prime Minister was host at a reception at 10 Downing Street yesterday for government ministers on the eve of the opening of Parliament.

United and Cecil Club: The United and Cecil Club and the Carlton Club held a reception yesterday to mark the state opening of Parliament. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP, Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party, received the guests.

Liberal Party: An eve of session reception and dinner at David Steel, MP, and other members of the Liberal Shadow Administration in both Houses of Parliament was held at the National Liberal Club yesterday.

25 years ago: From The Times of Monday, Nov. 3, 1952

Washington, Nov. 1.—A facsimile of letter that Queen Victoria wrote in 1853 to Mrs Abraham Lincoln expressing her heartfelt sympathy on the assassination of her husband, the President, will be presented on Tuesday to Queen Elizabeth II, sent from Osborne, Isle of Wight, the letter reads.

Though a stranger to you, I can not remain silent when so terrible a calamity has fallen upon your country and most persons are deeply grieved and feel sympathy with you in the shocking circumstances of your present dreadful misfortune. No one can better appreciate than I can, who am in your position, the loss of my own beloved husband—who was the light of my life, my stay, my all—what your suffering must be; and I earnestly pray you may be supported by the love and sympathy of your friends.

The Rev. G. F. Norwood, Vicar of Worswick and Hutton, vicar of Cramlington, and the Rev. G. C. Martin, Vicar of Westgate-on-Tees, have also offered sympathy.

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THE ARTS

Revelations in 'early music'

Conferences on the performance of "early music"—I use quotation marks because the term is by now more generic than literal—are becoming an increasingly regular part of the musical scene. Musical, nor just musicalological; for this is a meeting ground for people with different trainings, attitudes, skills and preoccupations, and the cross-fertilization can do nothing but good.

Organizers of future conferences of this kind might profitably learn from the approach adopted by the Fondation pour l'Art et la Recherche at their recent meetings held at the new-town complex Agora, at Eys, half an hour by train south of Paris. There M. Pierre-Henri de Man brought together, from France, Germany, the United States and elsewhere (including Charles Beare from England), people who had all considered in different ways, the music of the Vienna Classical period, from Haydn to Schubert. Some talked about instruments, from the standpoint of restorers or specialists; some about general interpretative matters; and some about editions, texts and repertoires.

As I was able to arrive only in time to pick the fruits—to hear the final concert, that is—I cannot comment on the conference itself except to say that everyone I spoke to seemed stimulated by the contact with others approaching like questions in such a like manner. The concert itself provided further stimulation. Half of it was given on the piano by Jörg Demus, using an early nineteenth-century English instrument, by Tomkinson, and a modern copy of it. The first lesson to be learnt was that copying a design does not necessarily mean copying a tone quality. Whether the builder had in this case done as most modern builders do, and permitted himself the use of certain modern technologies and materials, I do not know and it is desperately difficult for the modern instrument-maker to pretend that some of the problems are unsolved, when they are, and use expensive and laborious ancient methods that can now easily be circumvented. But certainly the new instrument wanted the sound, and especially the richness of blend of registers, of the old one. But unlike the old one, it stayed in tune.

Mr Demus chose a programme well. Mozart's C minor Fantasy has more variety of piano textures within 10 minutes than any other work of the time I can call to mind, and it benefited in particular from the different qualities of tone (as opposed simply to quantities, as on a modern piano)—the cloudy wash of certain soft passages, the

brighter colour for louder ones. To say that a modern instrument is technically superior in that level and colour are not irretrievably interlinked is of course true; but this was more the instrument whose sound was playing in Mozart's mind when he chose to write the notes as he did.

Then there was Schubert's little-known, unpublished fantasy based on Mozart's, an early piece (1812), which takes up something akin to Mozart's opening theme, without pursuing it, and then quickly moves on to the central lyrical theme of the Mozart work and expands upon it before an instantaneous recapitulation: a near embryonic encapsulation of Schubert's later methods.

In Beethoven's instrumental sonatas that followed particular interest resided in the balance of things and in the temper of the music. It can vary for almost impressionistic varieties of sound, for repeated chords that represented not forcible restatements but soft reiterations, made the traditional angry, dynamic Beethoven seem an irrelevance. The music sounded poetic and graceful, and resoundingly rich in those warm E major harmonies in the second movement. Perhaps modern instruments misled us about the nature of Beethoven's orchestra.

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John Piper with Venice Fantasy

The painter who likes working with craftsmen

John Piper, whose latest exhibition of "Victorian Dream palaces and other buildings in landscape" is on show at Marlborough Fine Art in Albemarle Street, W1 till November 26, has many admirers and many friends, or "pals" as he likes to call them individually. But he needs to have been patted on the head by the critics and dismissed as an agreeable lightweight who has "sprayed himself a bit thin," "an artist of some importance and much charm," and so on.

"Oh absolutely," he agrees when one puts this tactfully to him. "I don't mind, really. I'm so used to it. All painters and sculptors have to put up with some kind of comment of that kind. But I don't think it's any more offensive to be regarded as a lightweight than as being on the wrong track."

It is perfectly true, he concedes, that he has done all kinds of things—illustrations, opera sets, stained glass, tapestry, among others, in addition to painting—some of them ephemeral and some, like

open, very time-consuming. And he is constantly finding new interests: his latest is pottery.

The fact is that he loves working with other people, particularly craftsmen, though he is not a natural craftsman himself, and feels that this is something he can reasonably do, having spent a long time working out his salvation at an easel. "Painting is the basis of everything. Without that, one is a rootless dingley."

Driving through an autumnal haze of beach and birch to the "pagan" Gothic farmhouse at Newbyton, near Henley, is rather like picking through a selection of his landscapes from which autumn colours often gleam. He inherited the house from his mother, and he and his wife Myfanwy have lived for 40 years and brought up their four children there.

With his tall, very lean and deep-set eyes under dark eyebrows, he is at 73 a striking figure: slightly military in aspect, relaxed and friendly in manner, a man who seems fulfilled and without malice.

The cello sonata Op. 69 was less happy. Dmitry Markovich's

technique was good, but his feeling for tone quality seemed not

certainly related to the period instrument he was using, musically though he was played. Perhaps this emphasized that, even for the Classical period, authenticity has to be a package deal, and that any split in the package is liable to give rise to a wholly new range of anomalies.

Stanley Sadie

of the time I can call to mind, and it benefited in particular from the different qualities of tone (as opposed simply to quantities, as on a modern piano)—the cloudy wash of certain soft passages, the

duce the decisively ringing tone and majestic phrasing that he has led us to expect from him in such works.

There were indeed many inaccuracies in the first movement, some of them extremely obvious and in close succession. There were also, as in any interpretation by Sir Clifford, some notable insights, mainly in the slow movement, and he was more secure in the last movement than in the first.

More welcome altogether, though, was his rare chance to hear Prokofiev's Symphony No. 4, which, like Brahms' concern, underwent a variety of changes before reaching its final form.

First heard in 1930, it was not a success and remained unpublished. Prokofiev subjected it to a drastic revision, which considerably increased its length in 1947, and that version has supplanted the original. The score is full of piquant ideas, and received an attractively decisive performance from Mr. Weller. Yet the result seems overblown, the accesses of intensity not really earned by the music's growth.

Steven Mayer Purcell Room

Joan Chissell

The piano recital given on Tuesday by Steven Mayer, the New Yorker, was his first in London, but he is someone we may well soon hear again. His several eminence and musicality and because of his innate stage sense. I suspect that this production would have had far more immediacy in the old theatre.

The same observation applies to the American premiere of Thea Musgrave's "Voice of Ariadne".

Although the orchestra was augmented from the original scoring, the very chamber-opera nature of the work allied to the slightness of the story (with its inevitable links to the Strauss opera) and the delicacy of the scoring worked against the production. Colin Graham, who had staged the original at Aldeburgh, had here to work on a much larger scale, and what was doubtless effective in terms of ensemble acting there became here externalized and not a little stagey.

Patrick J. Smith

of this Leslie Hall. Sometimes his tone seemed unduly robust, insufficiently luminous. But the interpretation had character. In the flanking movements he again tempted providence in choice of tempo, but kept such a hold on rhythm that nothing sounded gabbled or confused. In the first movement he certainly allowed episodes, the time they needed to bring contrast. One or two chords in the Rhapsody were not perfectly balanced, but there was the right blend of expressiveness and simplicity. The intermezzo was splendidly ardent.

From America he brought a Ballade Op. 46, by Samuel Barber, hitherto unperformed in England. Following hard on the heels of Carl Ruggles' "Locanda" (1954) the Ballade sounded more neo-Romantic than new. But it was true piano music and immediately communicative. Both works showed Mr. Mayer's ear for tone-colour at its keenest. The recital ended with Stravinsky's three movements from Petrushka. Much of it was brilliant, although parts (notably in the final fair scene) seemed unnecessarily fast and loud.

Supertramp at Wembley confirmed the suspicion that he had not quite come to terms with the resonances of this Leslie Hall. Sometimes his tone seemed unduly robust, insufficiently luminous. But the interpretation had character. In the flanking movements he again tempted providence in choice of tempo, but kept such a hold on rhythm that nothing sounded gabbled or confused. In the first movement he certainly allowed episodes, the time they needed to bring contrast. One or two chords in the Rhapsody were not perfectly balanced, but there was the right blend of expressiveness and simplicity. The intermezzo was splendidly ardent.

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in the combination of skilful musicianship and good songs. Three keyboards, drums, bass and woodwind is the basic five-man line-up, but within that format there is sufficient versatility and contrast to satisfy even the most demanding ear.

Fortunately the sound system allowed the subtleties to be heard, so the precision of John Anthony Hellwell's plaintive woodwind playing, the intricate interweaving of the keyboard during the accuracy of the vocal. But during the entertainment the fingerprints of the songs themselves began to look too similar. Although taken from throughout the band's history, it became clear that too many are structured in the same way and rely on the same tricks to make a really satisfying evening. Sadly, the high quality of the lighting only served to emphasize this, for it was so perfectly synchronized and so ultimately predictable that what began as a series of summing effects all too quickly became irritating mannerisms.

Supertramp aim to re-create in concert the same sophisticated product they obtain in the studio: a tall, order in Wembley's cavern, but in the event pretty well realized and even surpassed in terms of human involvement. The music had a gaiety the albums sometimes lack.

The band's great strength is

that

Max Harrison

Joan Chissell

Entertainment advertisements appear on page 18.

Appalling Caledonian bard

Writer's Cramp Bush

I Irving Wardle

With McDade's already in existence, the invention of another appalling Caledonian bard may seem unnecessary. However, John Byrne of the Ninewells Writing Circle has put his heart into the job, and Francis Seneca McDade (1917-1976) emerges as a man of more parts than the weaver of Dundee.

From his early days at a Paisley seminary, McDade evinced a reckless hunger for print and in the years ahead he was ready to turn his hand to anything from articles on Deep Knee Bending in the Nursing Mother, and oupourings in Lallans, to a musical of Dr Spock's Baby and Child Care.

Poetry was evidently his first love, but he also ran novels and memoirs, drawing on his wartime experiences (failed WOSB and imprisoned as an undesirable alien) and the collapse of his hopes in the BBC talks department. Late in life it was on safer ground when it concerned McDade to do best. Scotland the while drag him into the limelight of Madalen and Cannongate Town. However, it gets funnier and funnier throughout the evening, as the pattern of McDade's failures, his inescapable reunions with the companions of his youth, and his letter writing tactics acquire its own comic momentum.

Also Robin Lefevre's production piles up a great mound of Scottish sub-cultural *bris à brac* upon the hero's tomb. The myth is entrenched with such supporting figures as his erstwhile lover Renée Ripp and the chauvinistic art critic Denholm Pantalone: though for art and biography jargon, Pantalone is no match for Mr. Bert's narrator whose commentary offers an inexhaustible flow of dead groans and ludicrous prolonged metaphors designed to elevate his lowly subject into a giant.

The Fall of the House of Usher Cottesloe

Ned Chailliet

In *The Fall of the House of Usher* the achievement of Steven Berkoff is to bring horror to the stage, to convey the agony of dying in a sealed coffin, to create through his mastery of mime, sound effects, movement and vocal capacity, a picture which is unreal, comic and frightening. Since I first saw the production several years ago in Edinburgh, I have carried with me a memory of the closing scenes of the play, with Usher's sister in a shaft of light, which suggests her coffin, scraping her fingernails in terror on an invisible lid to the accompaniment of painful screeches on the strings of a fiddle.

The image was so powerful in the small Traverse Theatre that I had forgotten how little of the time was given to the premature burial. Before Mr. Berkoff unveils the purity of that horror he sets the scene through meticulous detail and uncompromising theatricality. There is something almost leisurely in the way he, as Usher, step from their established roles to play the part of the house, to speak for the walls, the doors, the tapestries of the building, which is as an attitude as the line of Ushers, which will end with Roderick Usher's death.

There is nothing normal in Edgar Allan Poe's stories and, by establishing that there is nothing normal in the actions on the stage, Mr. Berkoff presents a world where horror can exist. When normally threatening to appear, with Usher and his sister greeting their visitor, Edgar, Mr. Berkoff re-stages the events several times in several different ways. Edgar's ominous remark to Usher, "You have altered beyond belief," is turned into a joke when Usher replies: "We all change a little." Horror, being as powerful as it is, is a good way through any comedy, as long as possible. When it is finally introduced it is all the more effective for the delay.

Some of the claustrophobic intensity of the production is dissipated in the Cottesloe's airy space but, with the aid of ingenious lighting, the actors are divided and united as suits the play.

In addition to the splendid performances of Mr. Berkoff and Miss Lee, Terry J. McGlynn, who has appeared in other productions by the London Donmar Theatre Group, brings a fine, intelligent presence to the part of the visitor. It is a moody and strange piece which is powerfully effective.

On altogether a different level, but also at the National Theatre, Michael Kusow has devised and directed a celebration of the humour of Groucho Marx. Taken mainly from the book, *The Groucho Letters*, a collection of typically sharp exchanges with such different bodies as Warner Brothers and T. S. Eliot, it presents Derek Newark as a substitute Groucho complete with leer and mouth.

The jokes and wisecracks still hold their swing, Mr Newark very well conveys Groucho's style in both his prime and old age and it can sometimes be seen on the platform of the Lyceum Theatre before the main performance.

Penta ICA

John Percival

It must be just 10 years since I was shown round the then unfinished new home of the RAM. The baritone, David Wilson-Johnson (winner of the 1977 National Federation of Music Societies' award) was outstanding equally for warmly assuring a lyrical tone throughout a considerable dynamic range and his sensitive artistry and ability to hold an audience captive in a variety of styles.

For the Boyce's *Mozart to the Rescues* there were many memorable romantic interactions in Lieder by Brahms through which the voice itself increasingly died away, until a group of Duparc after the interval.

Vanessa Parker's soprano voice was as pure and pretty as a silken thread, delightful in Arne's "Softly blow thou silver stream" and very acceptable in Purcell and Mozart, too, even if the demonstrative wide-ranging end of "Parto, parto" from *La Clemenza di Tito* posed a few problems. Naturally, Chausson and Duparc suited her better than the austere fervour of Beethoven's Gellert songs, though tone was not always ample enough for "Le Marin de Rosemonde". In Wolf she had style and charm even if characterization still needs to ripen.

The American pianist Harriet Serr arrived not as a youngster but a musician of mature years, her wrists as sturdy as her sense of direction was strong. Brahms' Handel Variations, Mussorgsky's Pictures and the first movement of Beethoven's Op. 111 for the most part responded to her thrust even if now and again needing more time to breathe. Occasionally her touch seemed unnecessary robust, as in Beethoven's slow movement (particularly the episode in thirds) and some of Debussy's Suite Bergamasque too. But though it may have lacked an element of mystery and magic, the recital was stimulating in its purposefulness.

Another debut was by the harpsichordist Joseph Payne, in the first of two recitals curiously entitled "The Art of Suite" (the second of which will be on Friday). Each half of the programme I heard was itself divided into two halves, the first consisting of pieces de clavecin, the second of Bach's English Suite (nos 5 and 6).

The Bach seemed the most enjoyable, but in terms by Louis and François Couperin Mr. Payne showed himself to be a neat, unfussy player, making sparing yet always apt changes of registration. His approach to Schubert's last sonata was praiseworthy.

Consequently I wish I could give a warmer welcome to the three-week international season of "dance theatre" that opened on Tuesday. This week's visitors are a fivesome from Rotterdam called Penta. There seems to me little theatre and less dance in their show, which is more like an old-hat mime revue.

Next week Margaret Beals and two other American women recite and dance to Sylvia Plath's "Ariel" poems. The following week Moving Being brings its new show, *A Complex Oedipus*. I hope ICA's new venture thrives and that another time they put more stress on the first word in "dance theatre".

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Entertainment advertisements appear on page 18.

Mobil Concert Season

Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich
Friday 18th November 1977

All tickets sold

Violin: *Paul McHugh* Beethoven: *John Anthony Hellwell*
Piano: *David Wilson-Johnson* Schubert: *Harriet Serr*
Cello: *John Percival* Mussorgsky: *Joseph Payne*
Double Bass: *John Chissell* Sonata No.10

Greenwich Entertainment Service. Box Office Tel: 01-854 5250.

"The research project of the Royal Hospital & Home for Incurables could mean hope for thousands. Please help them to succeed."

says JACQUELINE DU PRÉ

"As a sufferer from multiple sclerosis myself, I find the research which the Royal Hospital & Home is undertaking together with other bodies, full of hope and encouragement. Please help them in their work with a donation or a bequest."

All donations gratefully received and acknowledged by the Appeals Secretary, Air Commodore D. F. Rixson, OBE, DFC, The Royal Hospital & Home for Incurables (Putney & Brighton), West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW.

Survey explodes some of the myths about 'British sickness' and reveals willingness to invest

Nordic groups see bright future for UK industry

By Peter Hill

Scandinavian companies, so often the test bed of social democracy and labour relations advances, yesterday exploded some of the myths about British industry, and gave the Government's inward investment policies a useful boost.

A survey among about 30 British subsidiaries of Nordic companies revealed a surprising degree of confidence in the future of the British economy, and an equally surprising amount of contentment about operations in Britain to the extent that they would recommend increased investment by Nordic countries in the United Kingdom.

The survey, commissioned by the

Nordic Bank and carried out by Research Services, showed that the British business environment was considered by most of the executives questioned to compare favourably with conditions in the Nordic area in almost every respect, apart from productivity.

But the survey revealed that although average total hourly costs of labour in parts of Scandinavia are as much as 2.5 times as high as in Britain, productivity in a significant number of United Kingdom subsidiaries was as high—or even higher—than in the parent company, and was most commonly no more than 15-20 per cent lower.

Very few of those companies covered by the survey—ranging from those

employing only about a score of workers to those employing about 1,400—thought that Nordic companies offered a better environment in terms of absenteeism, days lost through industrial action, or overall labour relations.

One third of the companies interviewed in fact considered that labour relations were better here.

Of the 30 companies covered by the survey, 25 claimed to have lost no days at all through industrial action. Of the remainder, one company put the loss at less than five days per year, and the others reckoned to have lost between a half and full day.

About half of the companies interviewed said that there was lower productivity in the United Kingdom—

although three operating in special productivity areas reported that productivity was higher—and overall it appears that the lower costs more than compensate for the somewhat lower levels of productivity.

Principal complaints unearthed by the researchers related to delivery problems and fluctuating exchange rates while, encouragingly, the Bank of England's restrictions on sterling finance do not appear to have been a significant disincentive.

All this was music to the ears of Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, who said that the results provided practical evidence of the success of Scandinavian companies operating in Britain.

Strong reaction against Whitehall plan to limit monopoly advertising

By Patricia Tisdall

"Stricter objections" to Government proposals to give the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection new powers to curb advertising spending by monopoly holders have been lodged by the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers.

In comments which have been circulated to members this week, the society describes the plan as "draconian" and "illegal".

The proposal is part of a series of 18 amendments which the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection wants to make to the Fair Trading and Restrictive Trade Practices Acts during the next parliamentary session.

Its aim is to enable the Secretary of State to restrict advertising or other promotional expenditure if the Monopolies Commission reports adversely on this aspect of a company's activities.

Advertisers argue that, apart from practical difficulties, control would increase costs to the consumer and reduce consumer choice. Manufacturers, they say, would be bound to look for other less efficient ways of sell-

ing their products.

License objection is also expected to be registered by individual member companies. These include Unilever, which, when a proposal to restrict advertising of detergents by its Lever Bros subsidiary was raised in a Monopolies Commission report in 1966, threatened to fight the then Board of Trade in the courts and in Parliament.

In that report, the Commission recommended that the companies concerned should cut their selling costs by 40 per cent. It also urged the Board of Trade to consider introducing some form of automatic sanction that would discourage excessive selling expenditure.

A head-on clash between the soap companies and the Government was eventually avoided by a compromise. The agreement reached in 1967 was that Lever Bros and Procter & Gamble each would market one soap powder and two detergents at prices 20 per cent below those of their regular brands.

The Monopolies Commission's most recent comments about advertising are contained in its report on car and dog

foods published last July. It concluded that the present scale of advertising by Pedigree Pet Foods and Spillers does not operate and may not be expected to operate against the public interest.

But in general it is considered that the difficulties of smaller suppliers seeking to increase their sales, or of entrants to the market, are increased by the cost of national advertising which bears more heavily on them than on a supplier with a large share of the market.

Advertisers say that there is "no justification" for singling out advertising and promotional expenditure as being in some way "potentially harmful and deserving of control".

They maintain that there are no objective criteria which can be used by the Government to arrive at "proper" levels of expenditure in any particular case, adding that any control "would inevitably be arbitrary, distorting the whole marketing process and competitive relationships".

Other objections are that there could be "severe practical difficulties" in administration of controlled advertising.

Little hope of import controls for textiles

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mr Callaghan yesterday admitted that the Gatt multilateral agreement "had not been an entirely satisfactory arrangement", but held out little hope of import controls to textile workers anxious about their jobs.

In response to a petition presented by the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union, the Prime Minister argued that the Government had already taken "a very considerable amount of action" to limit low-cost imports.

He added: "At the same time, we are determined to strengthen the network of protective measures by securing tougher bilateral agreements with supplying countries."

In his letter to Mr Jack Brown, general secretary of the ATWU, Mr Callaghan recounted aid already given to the textile industry but agreed that the Gatt multilateral agreement had not worked as effectively as it might. The economic recession had "brought up its inherent inadequacies—particularly high minimum growth rates".

"And the EEC slowness in negotiating bilateral restraint agreements led to an unprecedented upsurge in imports from some suppliers," he said.

"We have recognized this, and have taken the lead within the EEC, with great determination, to make sure that there are tougher arrangements next year to succeed those set up under

the present multifibre agreement."

The Prime Minister made no specific response to the main demand put forward in the textile workers' petition—for immediate import controls that would safeguard the industry until the negotiation of these "tougher arrangements" is mid-1978.

The petition, a "spontaneous shop floor reaction" to the present difficulties, added Mr Callaghan to take action without delay to limit the import of cheap textiles into the United Kingdom and save the jobs of textile workers.

Mr Brown said the crisis was now bordering on desperation with extensive strikes and mill closures being announced with unacceptable regularity.

The textile workers seek from the Government a restoration of the public expenditure cuts leading to a commitment on public purchasing that will direct ministries and state agencies to "buy British, not cheapest". Chief among these agencies are the Ministry of Defence, the Health Service, the Home Office, and local authorities.

Wage levels in the industry vary from £35 a week to £85, depending on the job and shift payments, and "several thousand" jobs are at stake between now and mid-1978, according to the union. Companies are currently being propped up by the temporary employment subsidy

Retailers of clothing optimistic

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Britain's clothing and textile industries are showing greater optimism for the immediate future with improvements expected in output and a higher level of orders both from the United Kingdom and overseas.

This was the principal finding of a joint survey conducted by the CBI and the National Economic Development Office in the second of a series of quarterly surveys designed to provide a more accurate picture of the state of activity in the textile and clothing sector.

Retailers appear to be more optimistic about general conditions of trade than the textile industry generally, and retail outlets are markedly more optimistic about demand in the immediate future for virtually every category of clothing.

Stocks also appear to be flowing through the pipeline fairly freely, and sales continue to match or improve on retail expectations there could be above average levels of stockbuilding.

According to the survey the textile and clothing industry generally appears to be less pessimistic than in the July survey, although there was greater optimism among garment producers than in the spinning and weaving sector.

Below capacity working is widespread while the outlook for employment, according to the survey, is no brighter.

Call for smaller units to improve efficiency

By Our Technology Correspondent

Large organizations should operate in moderate-sized units to improve industrial relations and productivity, Sir Peter Masefield, former chairman of the British Aircraft Authority, said in London last night.

Giving his inaugural address as chairman of council of the Royal Society of Arts, Sir Peter said that an increase of only 5 per cent in output from the manufacturing labour force of 7.3 million people (about 30 per cent of the total employed labour force of 24.7 million) would improve Britain's annual export/import balance by about £5,500 million and "improve our economic situation".

Assuming that the United Kingdom and the leading industrial nations within the European Community were level-pegs in terms of manufacturing output per employee in 1960 (and this assumption was probably favourable to the United Kingdom), figures showed that Britain had increased this specific output by about 50 per cent, while the five leading EEC countries had almost doubled theirs.

In other words, Britain had fallen behind in manufacturing output by about one third. This disparity was one reason for Britain's relatively high rates

of inflation compared with other members of the EEC.

"It is easy to say that insufficient investment, overmanning and restrictive practices are among the reasons for low output—and so they are.

But I believe that the main cause is a dispirited attitude of mind born of a sense of impotence and a general feeling of ineffectiveness—most of all in the giant organizations."

Many of the problems must be laid at the door of the "fetish" for mergers in recent years. The result had been "a series of vast and ponderous organizations, many of them blighted by remoteness of control and a tendency to seek from employees a stiff conformity with little scope for individual innovation or enterprise".

Thus frustration and indifference replaced enthusiasm and dedication. There were some exceptions in large organizations, but not many.

The subject of human productivity, Sir Peter suggested, was the biggest challenge facing every branch of industry and business today. It was a world problem but was of special moment in Britain.

Though the bulk of large scale production (about 70 per cent of it) was channelled

through a relatively few very large organizations, the majority of employment was in small companies, many of which supplied the large concerns.

The small companies' record for labour relations was excellent, in the main because they worked in small groups in which there was a real sense of purpose—all too frequently frustrated by stoppages in the very large organizations which they supply.

Of course, there must be large organizations with large investments and the economies of scale—especially in heavy industry, in quantity production units, in power generation and in major transport undertakings.

But even they could best be administered in units of moderate size, where good communications in both directions smoothed the way to better industrial relations and hence to improved output.

The trouble is that many of the largest employers are more centralized than, I believe, is necessary or desirable. They cannot engender in their individual employees that sense of purpose—"difficult as it may be to achieve in a repetitive production process—which is the stimulus to real endeavour and so to high output."

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Superports may reduce tanker surplus

Development of superports and single buoy mooring facilities in the main oil discharging areas of Europe, Japan and the Middle East could have a significant impact on reducing the number of surplus large oil tankers, according to a survey published yesterday.

According to the study, the surplus of large tankers in 1980 could amount to between 40 million and 80 million dwt, representing 35 per cent of the fleet of tankers of more than 175,000 dwt.

But if new facilities for handling large oil tankers were developed over the next three years, the demand for tankers in 1980 would be an estimated 140-170 million dwt, which would reduce the surplus to 20 million to 55 million dwt.

In another report by the same company, prospects for the seaborne transport of coal were examined.

"Superports and SBMs for Tankers," H. P. Drewry (Shipping Consultants), £30 single copies, £115 series of 10 reports.

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Assuming that Britain had increased this specific output by about 50 per cent, while the five leading EEC countries had almost doubled theirs.

In other words, Britain had fallen behind in manufacturing output by about one third. This disparity was one reason for Britain's relatively high rates

Freight transport to the Middle East

From Professor P. A. Bromhead

Sir, In *The Times* of October 28, on freight transport to the Middle East, your Transport Correspondent suggests that sending loads all the way through such obstacles by road seems to be a waste of time.

For the traffic to Iran in particular, his contention is supported by the facts given:

"A freight cost of around £200 per ton, an average journey time of 15 to 18 days; high risk of delay, damage or loss."

According to the study, the cost of a road trip from Europe to Iran is £1,000 per ton, and the time 15 days.

Yet in 1974-75 more than 20,000 tons of freight a week are said to have been carried from Europe to Iran by road; each average day 15 lorries carrying between them a load equal to the capacity of five 100-ton freight railway trains.

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the Turks might prefer to give priority to the transport of other goods.

Such developments might well include the rail link from the port of Izmir to Ankara.

Given that, in principle, the greater the load a road carries, the greater the cost per unit, the more economic it is to use railroads.

The intention of our company is to increase the load per unit by experience in India where all the practical constraints of allowable cost, design, and manufacture of road vehicles are overcome.

Engineering design as such, can only be improved by experience in India where all the practical constraints of allowable cost, design, and manufacture of road vehicles are overcome.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Floating and the money supply

Our foreign currency reserves rose by just over \$3,000m in October and that, one assumes, is the end of the massive monthly changes we have now become used to—at least until the Government decides whether oil floating should be considered a honey-trap or a new way of life.

Meanwhile, the extent of the increase in the October reserves figure adds a little precision to the kinds of pressures the authorities were under in coming to their decision to let the pound loose. Just how much of the inflow—just over £1,700m in sterling terms—will have worked through into the money supply in the month to mid-November remains to be seen.

But the fact that the money supply growth rate to be kept to within 15 per cent to remain within the upper limit of 15 per cent annual growth certainly adds credence to the rumours that the October money supply figures will show a substantial “overshoot”.

The assumption that this is indeed the case it could well be that the potential growth allowable in sterling M3 in the

funds of above £400m. Clearly though the group's expansionist policy in the United Kingdom and the United States, will demand cash.

Nevertheless South Africa and gold are still important to the group; last year gold contributed 26 per cent of group revenue.

In its bid to expand away from these two traditional sources, Cons Gold has found itself facing the dilemma of other international mining houses—depressed base metal prices, political uncertainty in developed countries as well as LDC's savage price increases in new mining ventures and continual ending currency fluctuations.

Hence the move into the United Kingdom, where ARC has been an outstanding success, and into the United States, where the recent Hydro Conduit acquisition makes Cons Gold the biggest concrete pipe manufacturer in a fragmented market.

With this issue, Cons Gold is only forecasting a 10 per cent dividend increase, which also upset the market. That means a 7.9 per cent prospective yield on the ex-rights price of 173p, while the prospective p/e ratio is less than 6.

GILTS

Remaining gilt-edged redemptions: 1977-78	
15 Treasury 3% 1977	£850m
20 Brit Transport 4% 1972-77	£242m
15 Treasury 9% 1978	£1,500m

Source: Dept of Energy

the teamworkers
Taylor Woodrow

Stock Exchange Prices
More ground lost

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. \$ Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 22.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Weatherall Green & Smith

Chartered Surveyors · Estate Agents
London Leeds Paris Nice Frankfurt

High Low Stock	Int. Gross Price Chg/price P/E	Gross Div Yield	Gross Div Yield P/E	High Low Stock	Int. Gross Price Chg/price P/E	Gross Div Yield	Gross Div Yield P/E	High Low Stock	Int. Gross Price Chg/price P/E	Gross Div Yield	Gross Div Yield P/E	High Low Stock	Int. Gross Price Chg/price P/E	Gross Div Yield	Gross Div Yield P/E
BRITISH FUNDS															
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL															
HIGH STOCK COMPANY															
LOW STOCK COMPANY															
INSURANCE															
OLYMPIC GAMES															
INVESTMENT TRUSTS															
PROPERTY															
RUBBER															
MISCELLANEOUS															
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS															
DOLLAR STOCKS															
BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES															
FINANCIAL TRUSTS															

* Ex dividend.

** Dividend.

Dividend and yield excludes a special payment.

Company - Pre-Split figures. A Pre-Split figure.

Dividend, a Dividend per share, a Dividend per share.

The figure is a Price adjusted for the change in significant date.

The Times Share Indices for Q3/77 (June 30, 1977) original base date June 30, 1962.

Index No. Div. Yield



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PERSONAL TRADE 01-278 9351

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Queries in connexion with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel:

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The Times, P.O. Box 7,

Newgate Street, London WC2R 5EZ

Deadline for cancellation and insertion of advertisements is 10 days prior to the day of publication.

For "Monday's" a Saturday. On all cancellations Stop Number will be used to denote the date.

For "Tuesday's" and subsequent inserts regarding the date, the Stop Number must be used.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

"...He that liveth after me must be just, ruling in the fear of God." —2 Samuel 23: 3.

BIRTHS

CHANDLER.—On 20th October, at the Willows, Chelmsford, Essex, Sienna Leon, daughter of David and Steven James, son of David and Steven.

CHARITY.—On October 21st, at St. George's Church, Cheadle, daughter Julia Thirl, a sister for David and Mark Gais.

COTTER.—On October 21st, at home, in Sutton, Surrey, his wife, Valentina, 10 babies and a hand—daughter, Valentine, and son, Daniel, a son of Queen Charlotte Hospital, to Valerie and Rosalind and Peter Cotter.

GORDON.—On 25th October 1977, at his home, his beloved daughter, 18, died of meningitis.

HANBURY.—On Saturday, 28th October, at his home, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

HOLMAN.—On 28th October, at his home, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

LEMON.—On 28th October, in Cambridge, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

MISISON.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

O'SULLIVAN.—On 26th October, at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Sidcup, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

PETTS.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

REED.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

ROBERTS.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

ROSE.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

SCOTT.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

STALLS.—On October 28th, his beloved wife, 62, died of heart attack.

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